LITTLE JOE

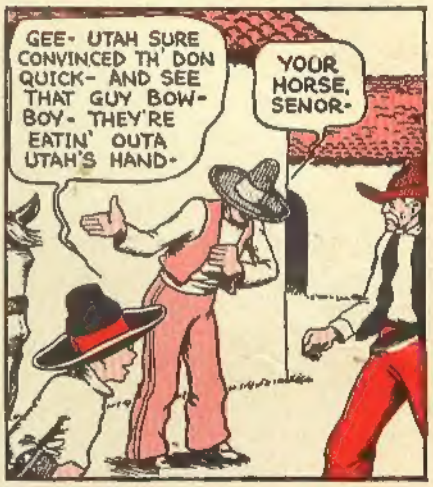
10¢

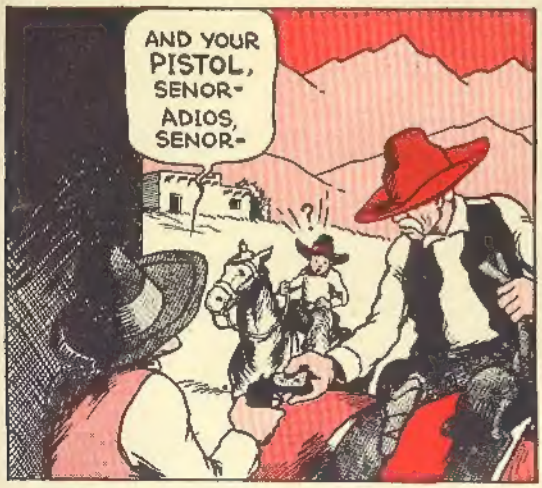
FOUR COLOR COMIC

No. 1

68 PAGES IN COLOR

LITTLE JOE





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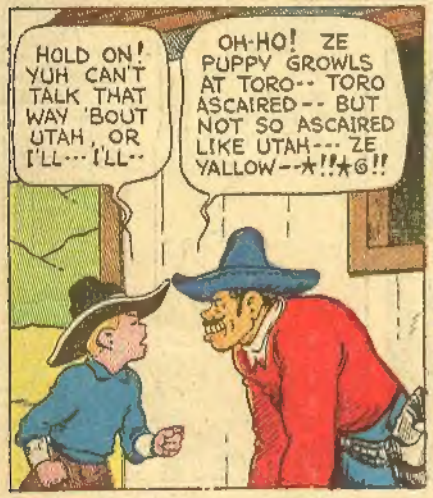
LITTLE JOE

YES IT IS TRUE- YOU'RE DON JOSE'S REG'LAR KILLER, AND YOUR JOB IS TO PICK A FIGHT WITH UTAH AND KILL HIM-
NO, NO-

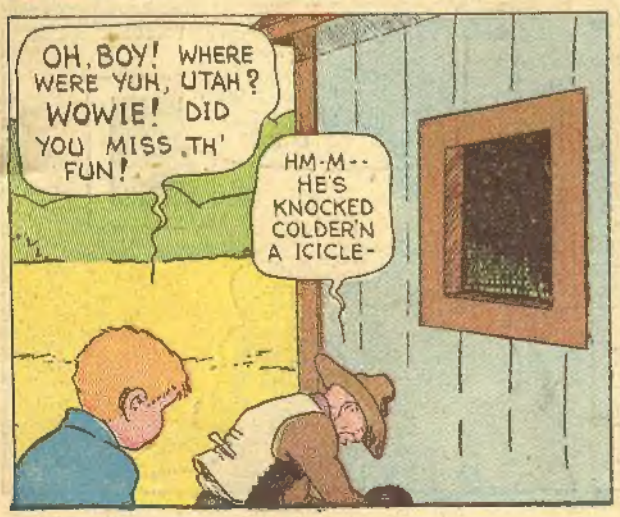
WELL, ANYWAY, HE'S NOT HERE- AND IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL BE GONE WHEN HE GETS BACK-
I THEENK UTAH BEEG ASCAIR OF TORO-

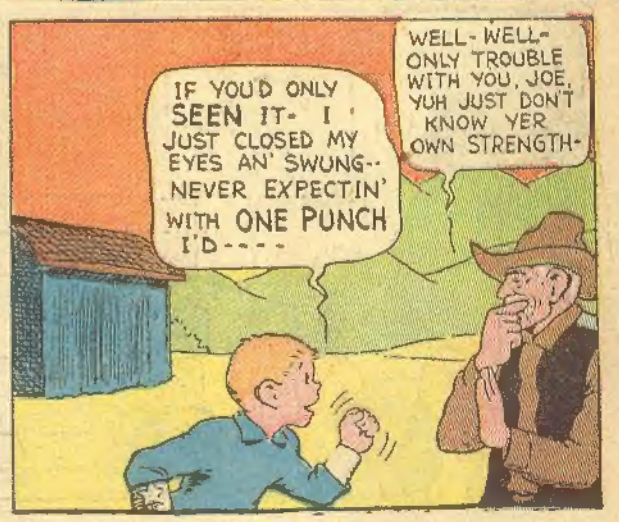
AFRAID O' YOU? HUH!
HE EES HOW YOU CALLING "YALLOW"- HE EES YALLOW★! ★©!!--★!!©!!


HOLD ON! YUH CAN'T TALK THAT WAY 'BOUT UTAH, OR I'LL··· I'LL··
OH-HO! ZE PUPPY GROWLS AT TORO-- TORO ASCAIRED-- BUT NOT SO ASCAIRED LIKE UTAH--- ZE YALLOW--★!!★©!!

TAKE THAT, YUH BIG BUM!
CRACK!
SOOP!

JOE! ARE YUH HURT? WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, I'LL BE··?

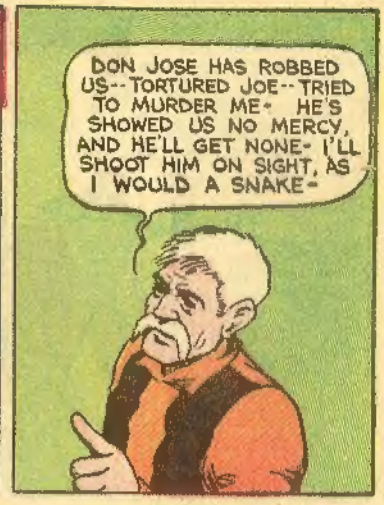

OH, BOY! WHERE WERE YUH, UTAH? WOWIE! DID YOU MISS TH' FUN!
HM-M-- HE'S KNOCKED COLDER'N A ICICLE-


IF YOU'D ONLY SEEN IT- I JUST CLOSED MY EYES AN' SWUNG-- NEVER EXPECTIN' WITH ONE PUNCH I'D----
WELL- WELL- ONLY TROUBLE WITH YOU, JOE, YUH JUST DON'T KNOW YER OWN STRENGTH-

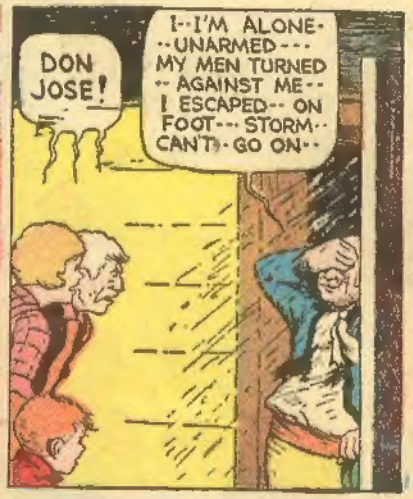
LITTLE JOE

HEAR THAT WIND- SNOW- SLEET- A BITTER NIGHT- AS DARK AN' COLD AS A BLACK CAT CLIMBIN' OUT O' A WELL-
I WISH DON JOSE WAS OUT IN IT, AN' FROZE TO---

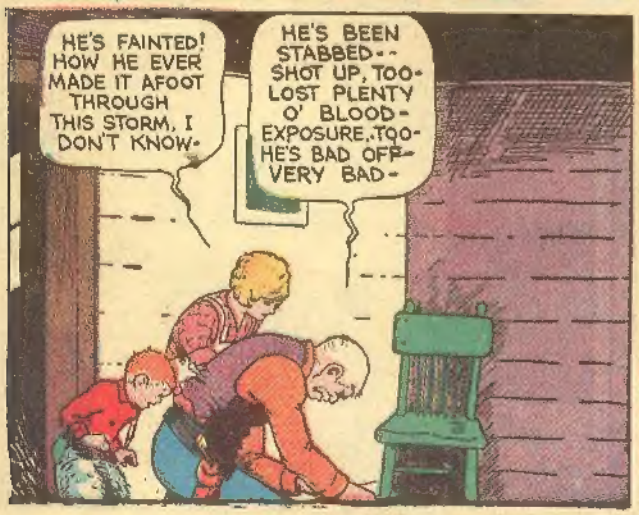
JOE! YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT! THAT'S NOT NICE-
'TAIN'T NICE, THAT'S TRUE- BUT WE'RE PAST TH' TEA PARTY STAGE WITH DON JOSE- IT'S HIM OR US, NOW- IT'S WAR! AND WAR AIN'T NICE-

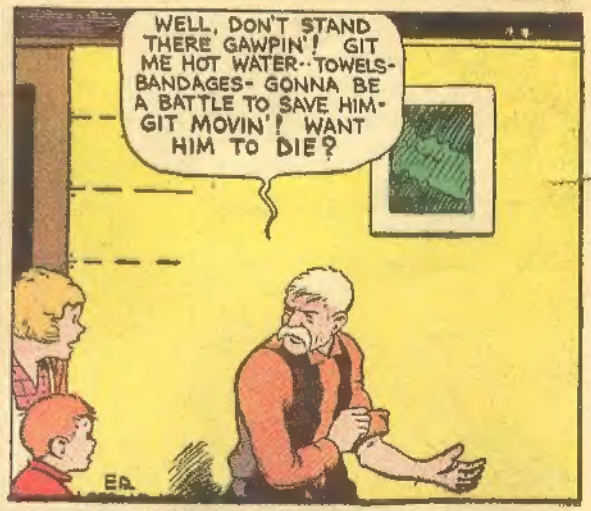

DON JOSE HAS ROBBED US--TORTURED JOE--TRIED TO MURDER ME- HE'S SHOWED US NO MERCY, AND HE'LL GET NONE- I'LL SHOOT HIM ON SIGHT, AS I WOULD A SNAKE-

AND IT WON'T DO A MITE O' GOOD TO ARGUE ABOUT IT, MRS.---- WHAT IN TIME?
SOME ONE AT TH' DOOR, UTAH!
BLOP BLOP

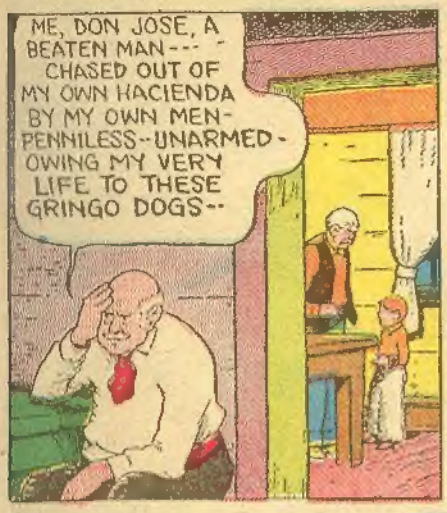

DON JOSE!
I--I'M ALONE--UNARMED--- MY MEN TURNED -- AGAINST ME-- I ESCAPED-- ON FOOT--- STORM-- CAN'T-- GO ON--

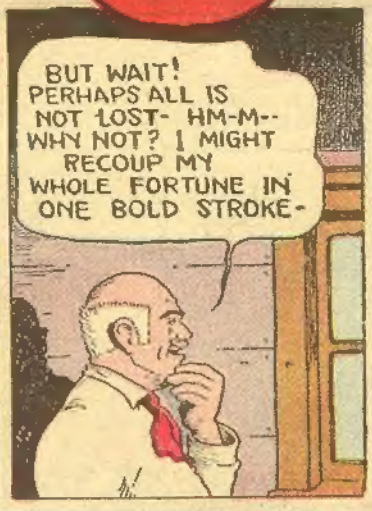
YOU VARMINT! BEGGIN' WON'T SAVE YUH- YOU'VE DISHED IT OUT TO US- NOW I'M GOIN' TO BLOW YER---
HAVE MERCY! I--- AM--- HELPLESS--- WOUNDED-- CAN'T SHOOT --- UNARMED --MERCY---


HE'S FAINTED! HOW HE EVER MADE IT AFOOT THROUGH THIS STORM, I DON'T KNOW-
HE'S BEEN STABBED-- SHOT UP, TOO- LOST PLENTY O' BLOOD- EXPOSURE, TOO- HE'S BAD OFF- VERY BAD-


WELL, DON'T STAND THERE GAWPIN'! GIT ME HOT WATER--TOWELS- BANDAGES- GONNA BE A BATTLE TO SAVE HIM- GIT MOVIN'! WANT HIM TO DIE?
ER.

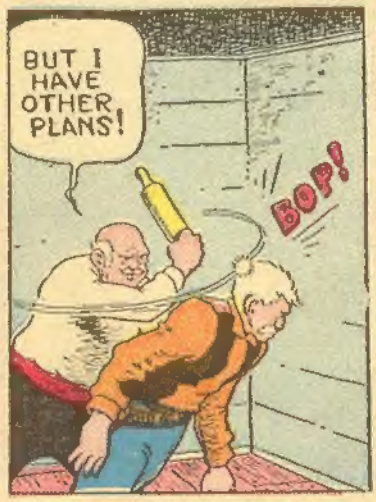
LITTLE JOE

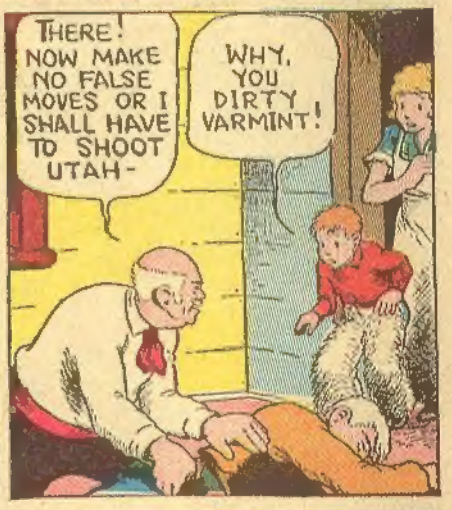

ME, DON JOSE, A BEATEN MAN--- CHASED OUT OF MY OWN HACIENDA BY MY OWN MEN- PENNILESS--UNARMED- OWING MY VERY LIFE TO THESE GRINGO DOGS--

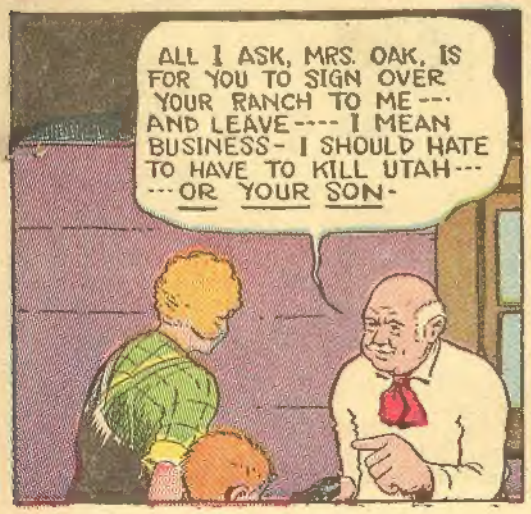

BUT WAIT! PERHAPS ALL IS NOT LOST- HM-M-- WHY NOT? I MIGHT RECOUP MY WHOLE FORTUNE IN ONE BOLD STROKE-

WELL, DON JOSE- FEELIN' BETTER TODAY?
YES- THANKS TO YOU, UTAH- I SURELY OWE YOU MY LIFE- BUT WHAT DO YOU INTEND DOING WITH ME?

SOON AS YOU'RE ABLE, WE'LL GIVE YUH SOME GRUB AND A HOSS AND TURN YUH LOOSE- THAT'S MORE'N FAIR, AIN'T IT?
THAT'S CERTAINLY BIG OF YOU UTAH---


BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS!
BOP!


THERE! NOW MAKE NO FALSE MOVES OR I SHALL HAVE TO SHOOT UTAH-
WHY, YOU DIRTY VARMINT!


ALL I ASK, MRS. OAK, IS FOR YOU TO SIGN OVER YOUR RANCH TO ME--- AND LEAVE---- I MEAN BUSINESS- I SHOULD HATE TO HAVE TO KILL UTAH--- ---OR YOUR SON-

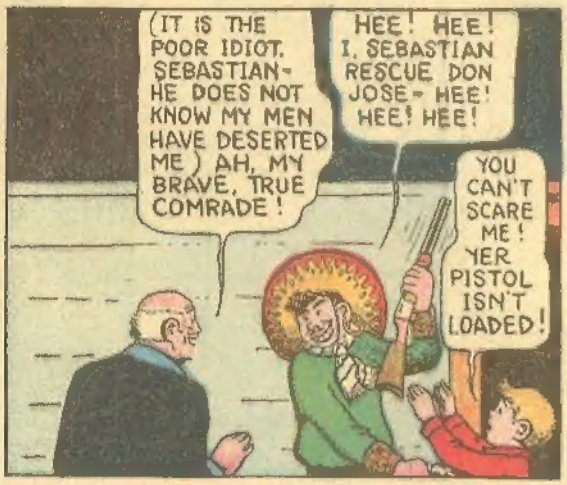
WITH YOU PEOPLE GONE AND THIS PLACE IN MY HANDS, MY MEN WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE ME BACK--- NOW, SHALL I START WITH YOUR SON, PERHAPS? ---- OR--?
NO! NO! DON'T! I'LL SIGN- I'LL SIGN ANYTHING!

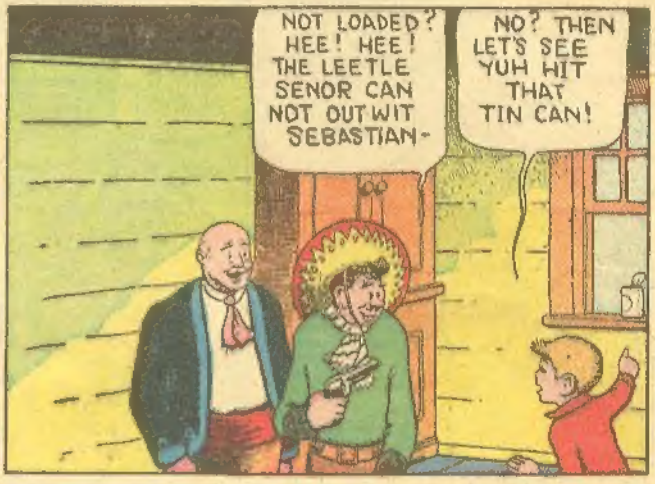
LITTLE JOE

--- AH--- GOOD-- YOU SIGN OVER YOUR RANCH TO DON JOSE-- SO- ON THE DOTTED LINE-
NO! NO! DON'T HARM MY POOR LITTLE JOE--- I'LL SIGN ANYTHING!

CARAMBA!
DROP THAT GUN QUICK! I'M GIVIN' THE ORDERS NOW- TEAR UP THAT PAPER, MAW, AND GO THROW WATER ON UTAH-

'LESS YOU HANKER TO CATCH A FATAL DOSE O' LEAD POISON, DON'T YOU SO MUCH AS TWITCH!


(IT IS THE POOR IDIOT, SEBASTIAN- HE DOES NOT KNOW MY MEN HAVE DESERTED ME) AH, MY BRAVE, TRUE COMRADE!
HEE! HEE! I, SEBASTIAN RESCUE DON JOSE- HEE! HEE! HEE!
YOU CAN'T SCARE ME! YER PISTOL ISN'T LOADED!

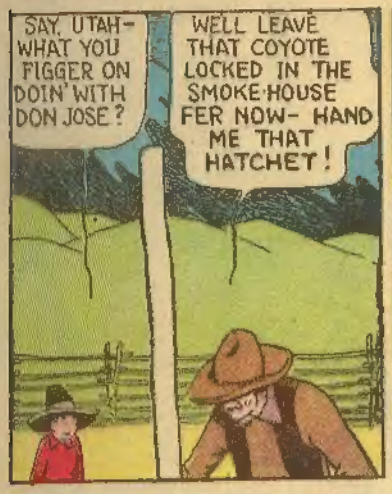

NOT LOADED? HEE! HEE! THE LEETLE SENOR CAN NOT OUTWIT SEBASTIAN-
NO? THEN LET'S SEE YUH HIT THAT TIN CAN!

HA! WATCH THEES
(ONE-- TWO) HUH! MISSED! WORST SHOOTIN' I EVER SAW-
BANG! BANG!

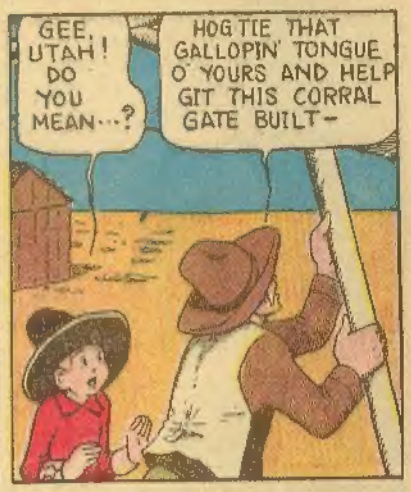
NO! NO! IMBECILE! WAIT!
SEBASTIAN EES INSULT- THEES TIME I DO NOT MEES!
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
THREE- FOUR- FIVE- EMPTY!

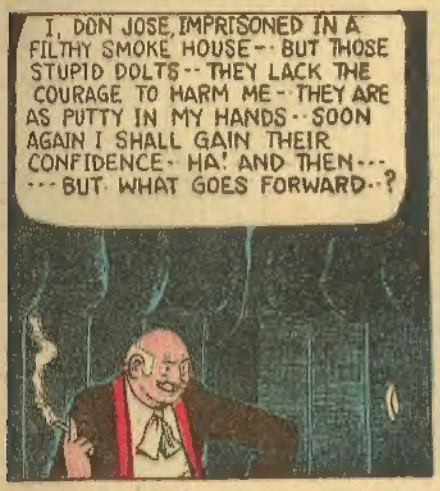
I TAKE IT BACK- I NEVER SAW ANY SHOOTIN' I LIKED SO MUCH--- NOW ONE MOVE AND I'LL PUT WINDOWS IN BOTH OF YUH!
CLICK!

LITTLE JOE


SAY, UTAH- WHAT YOU FIGGER ON DOIN' WITH DON JOSE?
WE'LL LEAVE THAT COYOTE LOCKED IN THE SMOKE-HOUSE FER NOW- HAND ME THAT HATCHET!

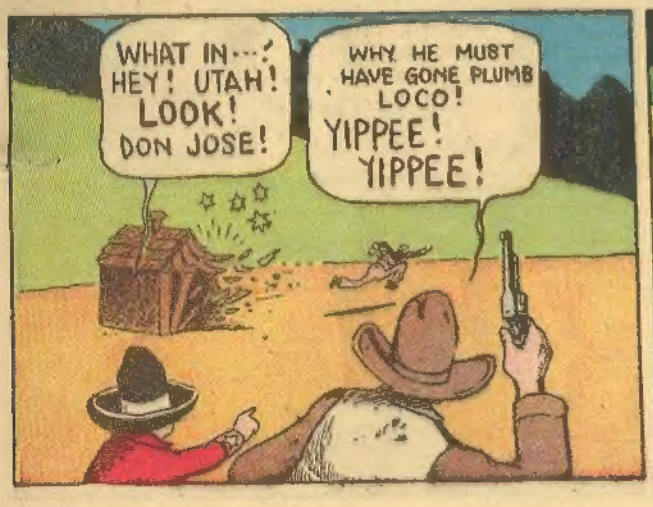
MAW SAYS YOU ALWAYS SHOULD RETURN GOOD FER EVIL-
HUH! HIS RETURN FER TH' EVIL HE'S DONE US, SHOULD BE A FUST RATE HANGIN'!


GEE, UTAH! DO YOU MEAN...?
HOG TIE THAT GALLOPIN' TONGUE O' YOURS AND HELP GIT THIS CORRAL GATE BUILT-


I, DON JOSE, IMPRISONED IN A FILTHY SMOKE HOUSE-- BUT THOSE STUPID DOLTS-- THEY LACK THE COURAGE TO HARM ME- THEY ARE AS PUTTY IN MY HANDS-- SOON AGAIN I SHALL GAIN THEIR CONFIDENCE- HA! AND THEN--- --- BUT WHAT GOES FORWARD--?

E-E-E! IT IS HORRIBLE! THAT FIEND- HE BUILDS THE GALLOWS- FOR THAT HE SAVES ME-

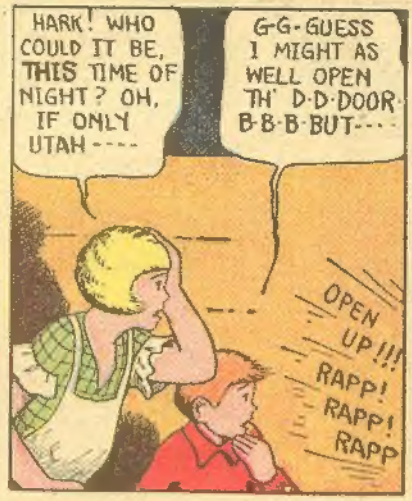
I COULD SHOOT HIM, BUT CHRISTMAS IS COMIN' AND ALL- AND I WOULDN'T HAVE HIS CARCASS ON TH' PLACE-- NOPE- WE'LL GIVE HIM A HOSS AND TURN HIM LOOSE-


WHAT IN...? HEY! UTAH! LOOK! DON JOSE!
WHY HE MUST HAVE GONE PLUMB LOCO! YIPPEE! YIPPEE!

HE'S TAKIN' JUMPS TWENTY FEET LONG- GEE! HE'S 'MOST TO TH' MESA ALREADY
WAL- THINGS GENERALLY WORK OUT FER TH' BEST- WE'RE RID O DON JOSE... AND WE'VE SAVED A HOSS-

LITTLE JOE

IT SURE IS LONESOME, WITH UTAH GONE AWAY-- 'SPECIALLY, WHEN IT'S SO DARK-
WAL, MAW- YOU GOT NOTHIN' TO BE SKEERED OF WITH ME HERE--- SH-H-H-- LISTEN! HORSES!


HARK! WHO COULD IT BE, THIS TIME OF NIGHT? OH, IF ONLY UTAH----
G-G-GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL OPEN TH' D-D-DOOR B-B-B-BUT----
OPEN UP!!!
RAPP! RAPP! RAPP

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
TAKE IT EASY, LADY- YOU TOO, KID-- ALL ALONE, EH? ALL RIGHT, BOYS-- SEARCH THE PLACE-

STOP! WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU--- ?
WE'RE A POSSE-- SEE? WE DON'T NEED NO 'RIGHT'-

WE'RE A'LOOKIN' FER BLACK JACK SMITH-
TRACKED HIM WITHIN A MILE O' HERE-
HE SHOT SHERIFF BLURT-
WHEN WE KETCH HIM, WE'RE AGOIN' T'HANG HIM-

HUH! A POSSE, EH? A PASSEL O' COWARDS! A DOZEN OF YUH AFTER ONE FELLER-
OUGHTA SLAP YOU OVER---- COME ON, BOYS- BLACK JACK AIN'T HERE-

YA-A-A-A! TAKES A DOZEN O' YORE KIND TO MAKE ONE REAL MAN--- HUH! BUNCH O' COYOTES, SCARED O' THEIR SHADOWS-
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THANKS, PARD! BLACK JACK SMITH IS MY NAME-YOU'RE A REAL HE-MAN-I'D LIKE TO SHAKE YORE HAND!

LITTLE JOE

THE WHOLE COUNTRY HAS HEARD OF YOU, BLACK JACK SMITH··· YOU'RE A GUN MAN! A KILLER!!!

BUT, LADY-- SHERIFF BLURT DRAWED ON ME- BESIDES, I DON'T THINK HE'S DAID-

GET OUT! GO! I'LL NOT SHIELD AN OUTLAW IN MY HOME-

BUT, LADY! THAT POSSE HAS FELLERS RIDIN' EVERY RIDGE FER FIFTY MILE AROUND---

WHY, A FLY COULDN'T FLAP HIS WINGS IN THIS VALLEY WITHOUT THEM SPOTTIN' HIM- WOULD YOU WANT TO GIT AN INNOCENT MAN KILT?

AW, GEE MAW! LET HIM STAY---

"INNOCENT"! BAH! WHY SHOULD I CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO A RENEGADE LIKE YOU? GET OUT!

ALL RIGHT, LADY- I AINT BAD··· HONEST-- BUT I'LL GO---- S'LONG, YOUNG FELLER-

GOOD BYE, BLACK JACK- AND GOOD LUCK!

E-E-E-E! A RATTLER! A RATTLER!

MAW! MAW! DID IT GET YUH?

?

Y-YES, SON- MY WRIST- IT'S SWELLING ALREADY--- OH-H! WHAT SHALL I D-D-DO--?

OH! OH! IF ONLY UTAH WAS HERE-- BUT HE WON'T BE BACK FOR DAYS--

NO! BUT I HEARD Y'HOLLER, AND IM HERE-- GIT SOME WATER BOILIN', JOE- LET ME SEE THAT WRIST, LADY-

IT'S-- IT'S NO USE-- OH-H-H··· WHAT WILL BECOME OF MY POOR LITTLE JOE?

B-BUT YOU! ···AND I SENT YOU OUT TO BE CAUGHT BY THAT TERRIBLE POSSE AND HANGED!

FORGET THAT, LADY--- QUICK, JOE- HAND ME THAT TOWEL!

YOU SAVE MY MAW AND I'LL---- I'LL HELP YUH LICK THAT POSSE!

LITTLE JOE

THAT TERRIBLE RATTLER-- I WOULD HAVE DIED IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU-- OH, WHAT CAN I EVER SAY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY NOTHIN', LADY-- HID ME OUT FROM THAT POSSE, DIDN'T YOU?

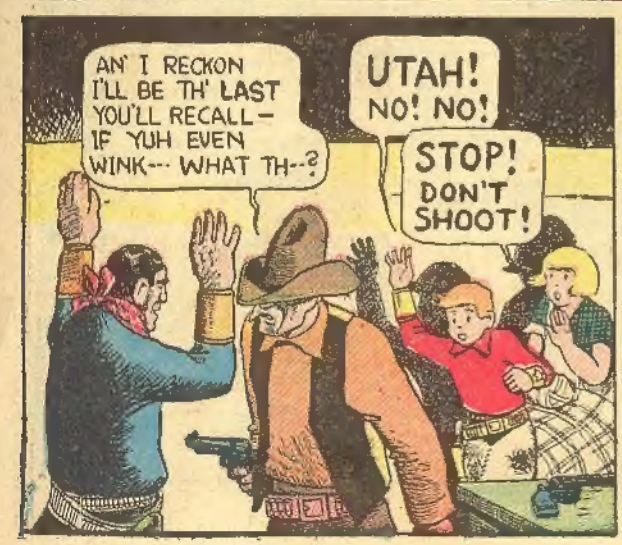
B-BUT I CALLED YOU A RENEGADE! AN OUTLAW! A KILLER!
WA-A-AL-- I'M SORRY, MAM, BUT I RECKON YOU HIT TH' MARK PRETTY NEAR EVERY SHOT

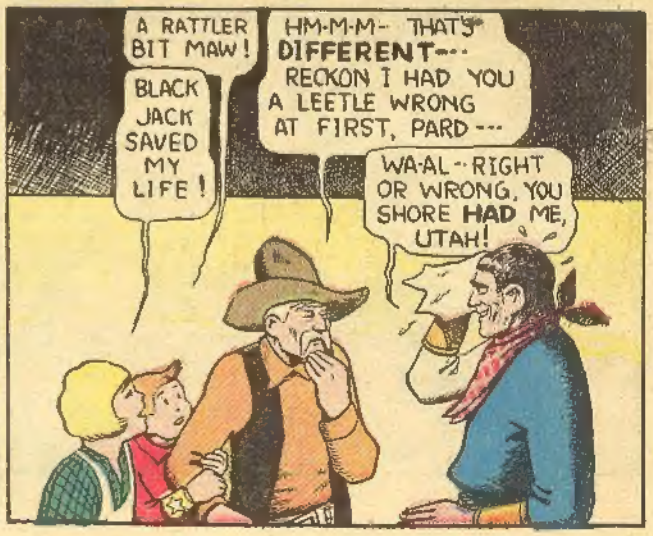
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT AWFUL GUN? THE POSSE GAVE UP AND WENT BACK TO TOWN-
YES, MAM-- BUT THIS FELLER, UTAH, IS DUE BACK HERE ANY TIME NOW-

YOU--YOU-- DO YOU MEAN YOU PLAN TO SHOOT UTAH?
WA-A-AL, NO, MAM-- I GOT NOTHIN' BUT KINDLY FEELIN' FER ANY MAN--

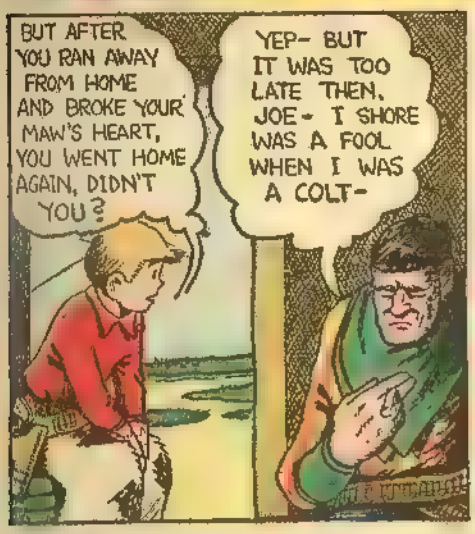
BUT HIM COMIN' IN SUDDEN-LIKE, AND FINDIN' ME HERE--- NO TELLIN'--- I FIGGER ON HAVIN' TH' DROP ON HIM, TILL HE GITS CALMED DOWN-

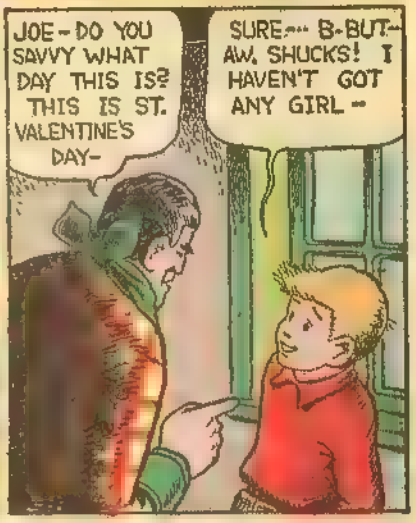
WA-A-AL, YUH FIGGERED WRONG, BLACK JACK SMITH- GIT 'EM UP!
YOU WIN, MISTER-- YOU'RE TH' FIRST FELLER EVER GOT TH' DROP ON ME-

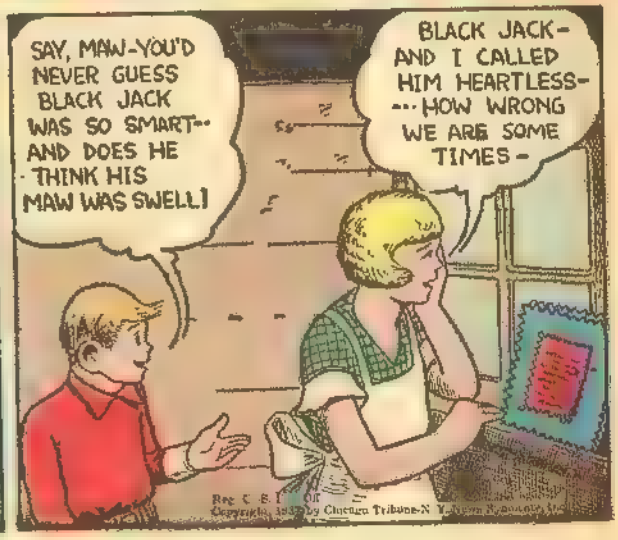

AN' I RECKON I'LL BE TH' LAST YOU'LL RECALL- IF YUH EVEN WINK--- WHAT TH--?
UTAH! NO! NO!
STOP! DON'T SHOOT!


A RATTLER BIT MAW!
BLACK JACK SAVED MY LIFE!
HM-M-M- THAT'S DIFFERENT--- RECKON I HAD YOU A LEETLE WRONG AT FIRST, PARD---
WA-AL-- RIGHT OR WRONG, YOU SHORE HAD ME, UTAH!

LITTLE JOE







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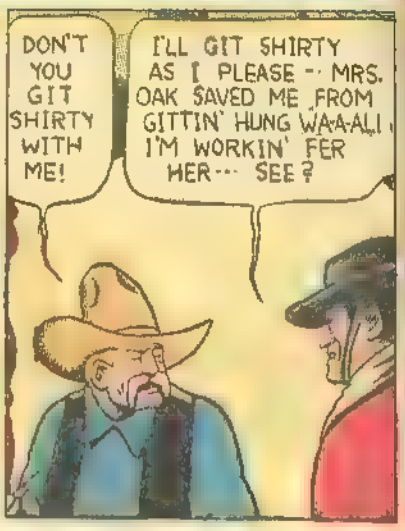
LITTLE JOE

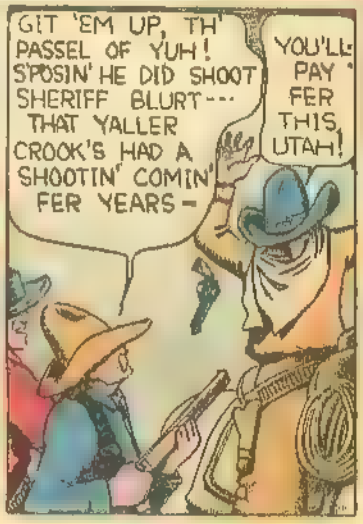
SHORE, YOU BEEN EARNIN' YORE GRUB BLACK JACK, AND A HEAP MORE- BEST COW-HAND I EVER SEEN--
THEN WHY YOU A TELLIN ME TO PACK UP AND HIT TH' TRAIL?

PRIDE, MOSTLY- WE RE PORE TOO PORE. IN FACT TO PAY WAGES TO ANY COW-HAND -
THEN I'M STAYIN'- HAVE I ASKED FER WAGES?

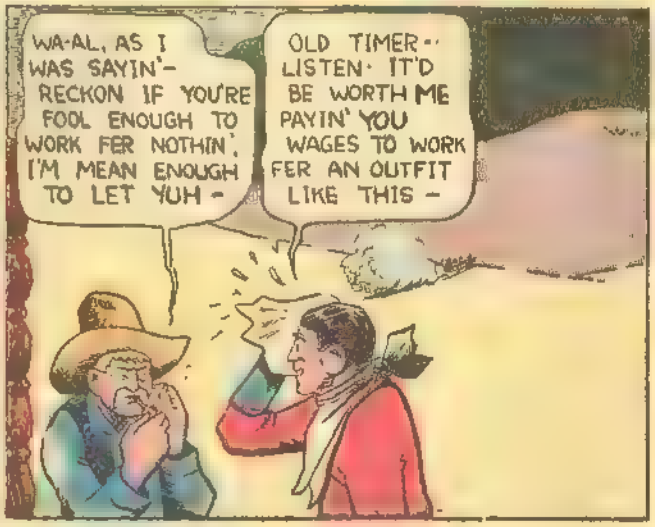

DON'T YOU GIT SHIRTY WITH ME!
I'LL GIT SHIRTY AS I PLEASE -- MRS. OAK SAVED ME FROM GITTIN' HUNG WA-A-AL, I'M WORKIN' FER HER--- SEE?

ROPE THET TONGUE O' YOURN! WHAT'S ALL THIS A-COMIN?
THE POSSE! AND THIS TIME THEY GOT ME COLD -

AR-R-R-WE CAUGHT YUH THIS TIME -
WE'LL SHORE STRETCH YORE NECK -
GRAB HIM, BOYS!
OUGHTA TAKE UTAH ALONG FER SHIELDIN' HIM!


GIT 'EM UP, TH' PASSEL OF YUH! S'POSIN' HE DID SHOOT SHERIFF BLURT--- THAT YALLER CROOK'S HAD A SHOOTIN' COMIN' FER YEARS -
YOU'LL PAY FER THIS, UTAH!

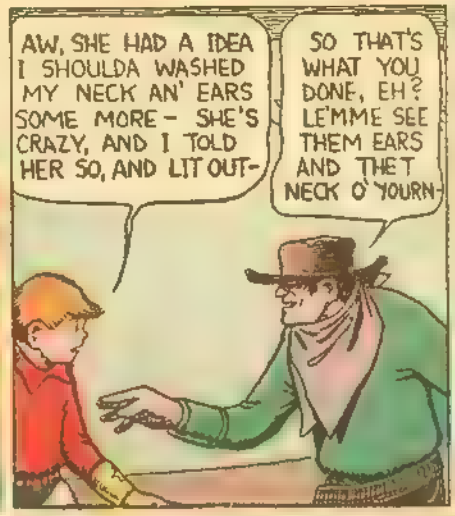
ONE MORE CRACK FROM YOU AND YOU'LL BE SO FULL O' LEAD IT'LL TAKE TWO HOSSES TO PACK YORE CARCASS HOME--- NOW GIT, YOU COYOTES!


WA-AL, AS I WAS SAYIN'- RECKON IF YOU'RE FOOL ENOUGH TO WORK FER NOTHIN', I'M MEAN ENOUGH TO LET YUH -
OLD TIMER-- LISTEN- IT'D BE WORTH ME PAYIN' YOU WAGES TO WORK FER AN OUTFIT LIKE THIS -

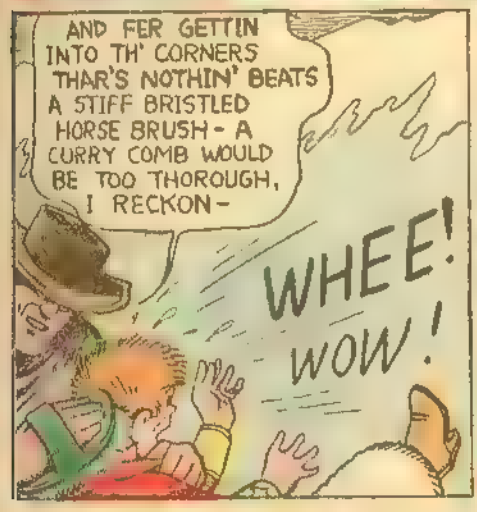
LITTLE JOE

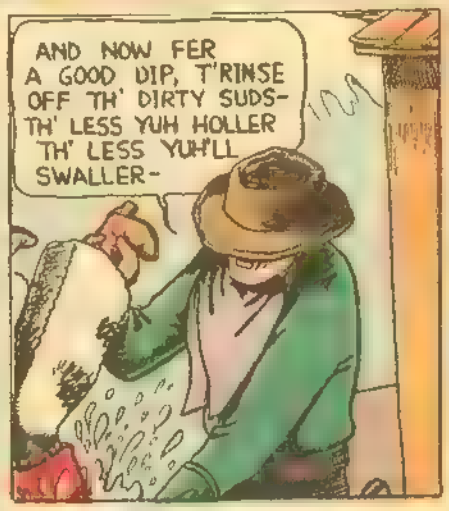
SOAP

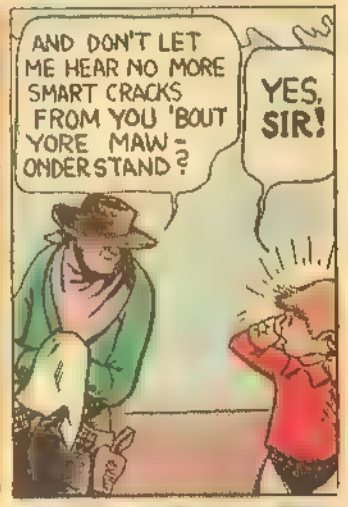
HUH! WIMMIN GIVE ME A PAIN, 'SPECIALLY MY MAW - BUT I SHORE TOLD HER A COUPLE, I DID-
IS THAT SO? WA-A-AL, JEST WHAT SEEMED T'BE TH' DIFFICULTY A'TWEEN YOU'NS?

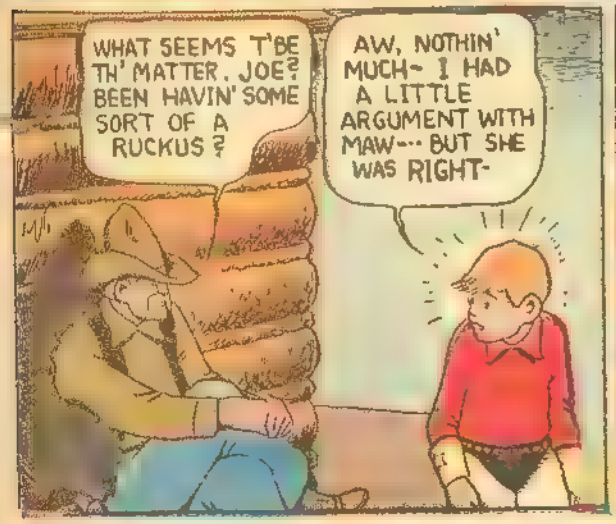

AW, SHE HAD A IDEA I SHOULDA WASHED MY NECK AN' EARS SOME MORE - SHE'S CRAZY, AND I TOLD HER SO, AND LIT OUT-
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU DONE, EH? LE'MME SEE THEM EARS AND THET NECK O' YOURN-

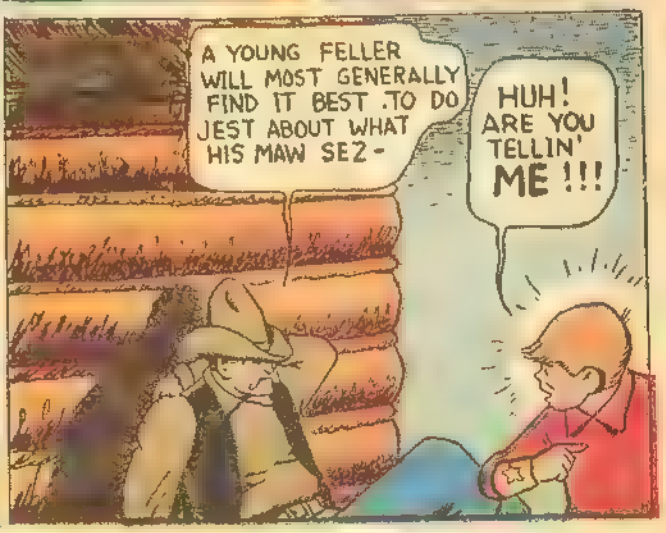
YOW!
HEY!!!
BLUG-G-G!
JEST AS I FEARED - BUT WE GOT PLENTY GOOD, STRONG SOAP, TH' YALLER KIND THAT RUBS IN GOOD-


AND FER GETTIN INTO TH' CORNERS THAR'S NOTHIN' BEATS A STIFF BRISTLED HORSE BRUSH - A CURRY COMB WOULD BE TOO THOROUGH, I RECKON-
WHEE!
WOW!

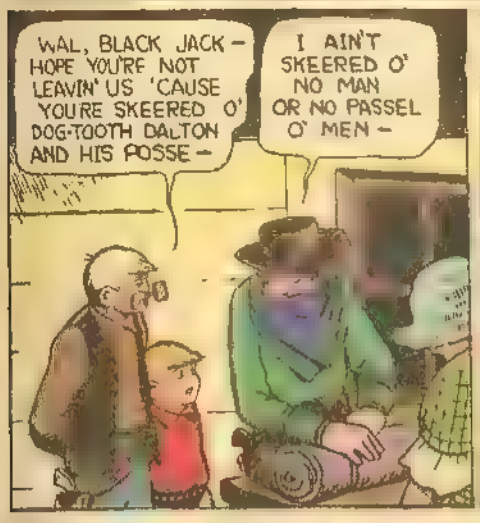

AND NOW FER A GOOD DIP, T'RINSE OFF TH' DIRTY SUDS- TH' LESS YUH HOLLER TH' LESS YUH'LL SWALLER-


AND DON'T LET ME HEAR NO MORE SMART CRACKS FROM YOU 'BOUT YORE MAW - ONDERSTAND?
YES, SIR!


WHAT SEEMS T'BE TH' MATTER, JOE? BEEN HAVIN' SOME SORT OF A RUCKUS?
AW, NOTHIN' MUCH- I HAD A LITTLE ARGUMENT WITH MAW--- BUT SHE WAS RIGHT-


A YOUNG FELLER WILL MOST GENERALLY FIND IT BEST TO DO JEST ABOUT WHAT HIS MAW SEZ-
HUH! ARE YOU TELLIN' ME!!!

LITTLE JOE

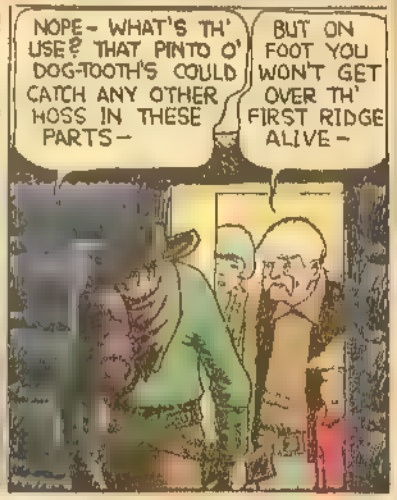

WAL, BLACK JACK - HOPE YOU'RE NOT LEAVIN' US 'CAUSE YOU'RE SKEERED O' DOG-TOOTH DALTON AND HIS POSSE -
I AIN'T SKEERED O' NO MAN OR NO PASSEL O' MEN -

WHANG!
BANG!

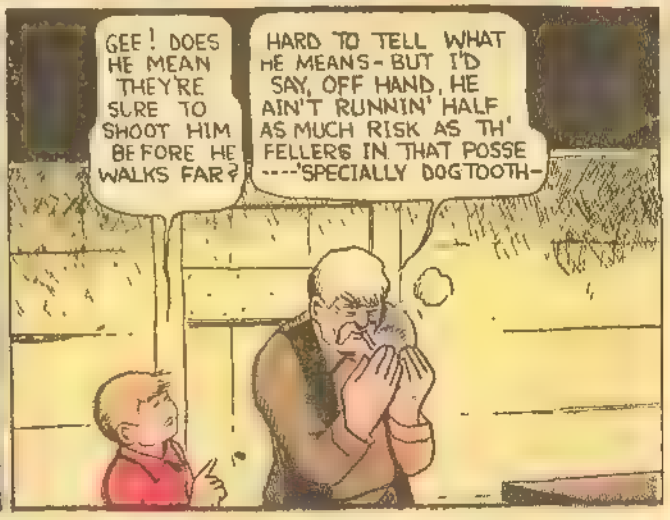
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

IF DOG-TOOTH COULD SHOOT STRAIGHT, I WOULDN'T FRET- BUT WHAT IF HE SHOULD HIT MRS. OAK OR LITTLE JOE?

I'M A-HITTIN' TH' TRAIL - SO LONG, FOLKS- YOU BEEN POWERFUL GOOD TO ME-
BUT THE POSSE! THEY'RE OUT THERE LYING IN WAIT FOR YOU-
BETTER TAKE A GOOD HOSS, BLACK JACK-


NOPE - WHAT'S TH' USE? THAT PINTO O' DOG-TOOTH'S COULD CATCH ANY OTHER HOSS IN THESE PARTS-
BUT ON FOOT YOU WON'T GET OVER TH' FIRST RIDGE ALIVE-

WA-A-AL - I AIN'T FIGGERIN' ON HAVIN' TO HOOF IT AS FUR AS THAT-
OH-H-H! POOR BLACK JACK, WALKING BRAVELY OUT TO MEET CERTAIN DEATH-


GEE! DOES HE MEAN THEY'RE SURE TO SHOOT HIM BEFORE HE WALKS FAR?
HARD TO TELL WHAT HE MEANS - BUT I'D SAY, OFF HAND, HE AIN'T RUNNIN' HALF AS MUCH RISK AS TH' FELLERS IN THAT POSSE ----'SPECIALLY DOGTOOTH-

LITTLE JOE

TRACKS ARE TH' NEWSPAPERS OF A COUNTRY LIKE THIS, JOE- SEE HOW GOOD YOU KIN READ-
WELL, THIS IS WHERE THAT POSSE TRIED TO GRAB BLACK JACK-
YEP- AND IT'S IN BIG PRINT ALL OVER TH' FRONT PAGE THAT BLACK JACK THINNED OUT THAT POSSE CONSIDERABLE-
AND THESE TRACKS HERE SAY HE BORROWED A HOSS AND GOT AWAY-
HM-M··· RIGHT YOU ARE, JOE- AND IT WAS A RIGHT GOOD HOSS, TOO-
BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH- LOOK! A FASTER HOSS LIT OUT AFTER HIM -
YEP- THAT'LL BE TH' SPOTTED PINTO, WITH DOG-TOOTH DALTON ABOARD -
OH-OH! AND LOOK - BLACK JACK HEADED INTO BLIND CANYON- HE'S CORNERED, SURE -
HARK! AIN'T THAT SHOOTIN' WAY OFF?
YEP- AND IF TRACKS ARE TH' PRINTIN' OF A FRONTIER NEWSPAPER, THEN THERE'S TH' HEADLINES! SEE? HIGH OVER BLIND CANYON- BUZZARDS!
BUZZARDS! OH, POOR BLACK JACK! HE WAS A SWELL GUY- OH-H, BOO! HOO! HOO!
BRACE UP, JOE! WE ALL GOT TO GO SOME TIME- --- WAIT A SECOND! WHAT'S THAT COMIN' OUT O' BLIND CANYON?
WHY, IT'S THAT PINTO O' DOG-TOOTH DALTON'S -
BOO! HOO! I KNEW IT- TH' FASTEST HOSS IN THESE PARTS- POOR BLACK JACK DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE -
UH HUH--- BUT JOE! THERE WAS ONLY BLACK JACK AND DOG-TOOTH IN THAT CANYON---- AND IT AIN'T DOG-TOOTH A-RIDIN' THAT PINTO!
WHAT?

LITTLE JOE

WA-A-AL -- BLACK JACK WAREN'T SUCH A BAD FELLER- BUT I'M JUST AS GLAD HIM AND THAT POSSE IS GONE - I ALWAYS WAS A FELLER WHO ENJOYS PEACE!
UTAH! LOOK! WAY OVER THERE TOWARD TH' NOTCH!
BY TH' GREAT AND GORY GIZZARD OF A GOAT!!! SHEEP!
OH, UTAH! DO BE CAREFUL! YOU'RE SO HASTY!
HASTY! BAH! CAN'T BE TOO HASTY IN DEALIN' WITH SHEEPHERDERS, I RECKON -
IF YOU CRAVE TO KEEP HEALTHY, FELLER, YOU'LL TURN THEM BLATTIN' VARMINTS AROUND AND ----
HOLD YER LIP, GRAMPAW- THIS IS FREE RANGE AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT---
WHY, YOU DIRTY, YALLER-LIVERED -- ---- WHUP!
SHOOTIN' A LEETLE HIGH, CORA- BEAR DOWN T'ABOUT HIS BELT BUCKLE---
BANG!
KEEP YER HEAD DOWN, JOE, AND RIDE!
ARE YOU TELLIN' ME!?!
ZING
ZING
ZING
BANG! BANG! BANG!
OH, THAT POOR SHEEP HERDER AND HIS WIFE! I HEARD THE SHOOTING - UTAH -- YOU DIDN'T ----
HAW! HAW! I'LL SAY HE DIDN'T- UTAH SURE PROVED HE'S ALL FOR PEACE, AT ANY PRICE-
OUCH!

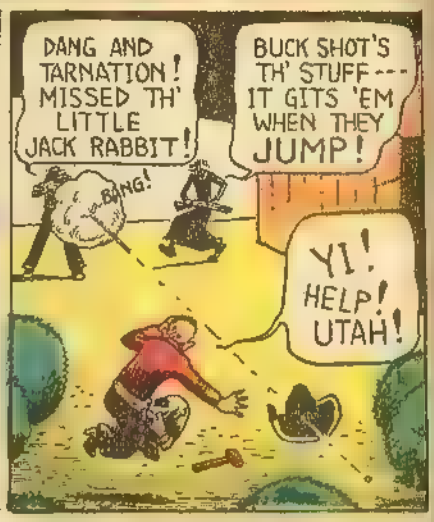
Little Joe

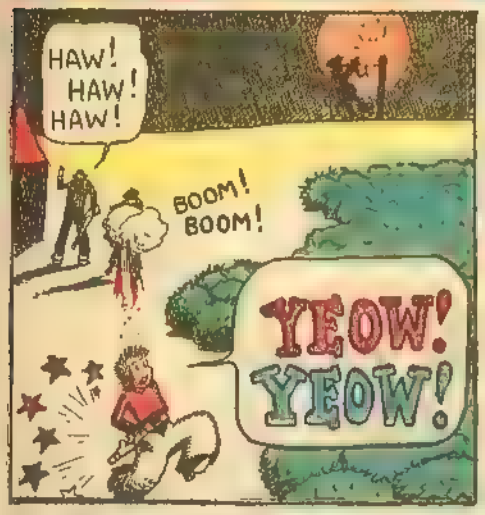
THAT TOUGH SHEEP HERDER AND HIS WIFE HAVE MOVED INTO THAT OLD SHACK WHERE TH' SQUAT'TER USED TO LIVE -
YEP - AND SEEIN' AS HOW WE'RE NEIGHBORS, I RECKON WE'D OUGHTA CALL AND PAY OUR RESPECTS -
AFTER THEM SHOOTIN' AT US? AREN'T WE JUST ASKIN' FOR MORE TROUBLE BY COMIN' HERE?
NOPE - THIS IS A SOCIAL CALL --- WHOA!
STOP RIGHT WHERE YOU BE, MISTER!
SHORE! SHORE! NO NEED TO GIT HOSTILE - BEIN' AS HOW YOU'VE MOVED INTO TH' VALLEY WE RECKONED WE'D CALL - SORTA A ERRAND O' MERCY, IN FACT -
SO-O-O? WHAT YOU MEAN ERRAND O' MERCY"?
WHY, WE FIGGERED IT'D BE ONLY NEIGHBORLY TO RIDE OVER AND OFFER YOU A CHANCE TO GIT OUT O' THIS VALLEY ----ALIVE!
WHY, YOU SQUINT-EYED OLD ---
TUT! TUT! DIDN'T COME HERE TO QUARREL -- BUT SHEEP RUIN A CATTLE RANGE AND THERE AIN'T ROOM HERE FOR OUR CATTLE AND YOUR SHEEP -
IT'S FREE RANGE - WE GOT OUR RIGHTS - WE KNOW TH' LAW - YOU CAN'T ----
YOU'RE RIGHT - SOME TIMES TH' LAW SEEMS TO HOG-TIE TH' WRONG FOLKS - BUT I FIGGER YOU'RE A RIGHT SENSIBLE FELLER -
HI! WHAT YOU DOIN'?
EVERY MORNIN' THAT NAIL WILL BE DROVE IN A LEETLE FARTHER - WATCH IT CLOSE, FELLER - ON TH' MORNIN' THAT NAIL IS CLEAR DROVE IN I RECKON YOU AND YORE SHEEP BETTER BE PLUMB GONE -
?
GEE, UTAH! WHAT YOU FIGGER ON DOIN' IF THAT FELLER DON'T SCARE?
WHY, JOE, I DON'T GUESS I'LL HAVE T' FIGGER ON THAT --- IF I CAN ONLY FIGGER ON SOME PLAN FER DRIVIN' THAT NAIL TH' REST O' TH' WAY IN -
?

LITTLE JOE

MEBBY I WAS A MITE BRASH WHEN I TOLD THAT ORNERY SHEEP HERDER THAT WHEN THAT NAIL WAS DROVE ALL TH' WAY INTO THAT POST HE'D BETTER BE GONE ---- BUT I GOT A RIGHT GOOD IDEE HOW WE CAN DRIVE THAT NAIL, JOE –

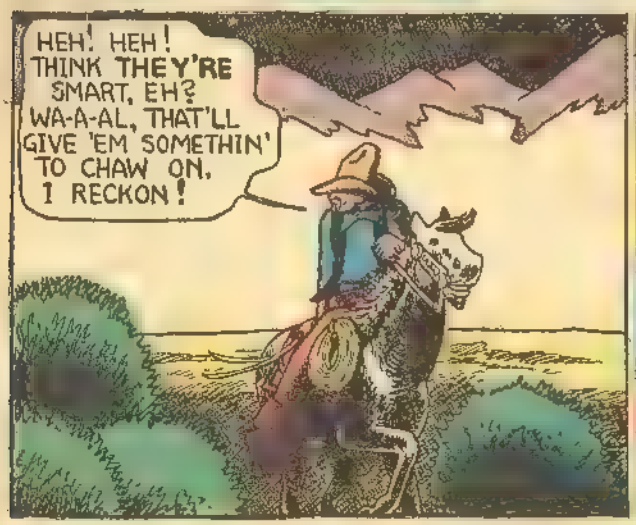
THEY'LL BE LOOKIN' FER ME ON A HOSS- BUT TH' WAY YOU KIN STALK THEY'D NEVER NOTICE YOU SLIPPIN' UP IN TH' DARK ON FOOT--- ONE WHACK AT THAT NAIL AND --
GEE, UTAH! WILL YUH LET ME DO IT?

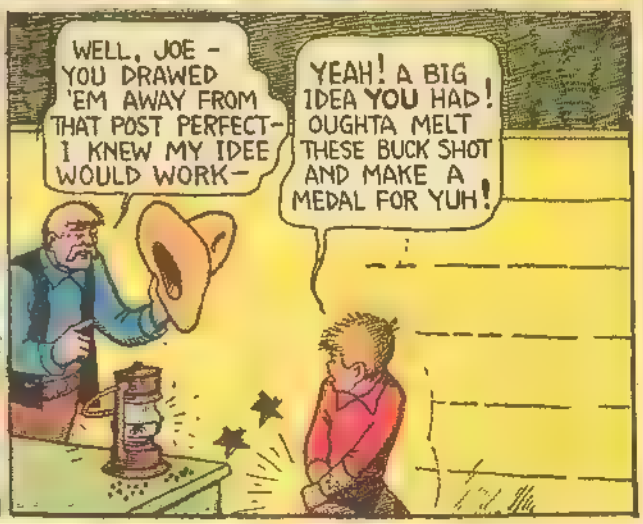

DANG AND TARNATION! MISSED TH' LITTLE JACK RABBIT!
BUCK SHOT'S TH' STUFF --- IT GITS 'EM WHEN THEY JUMP!
BANG!
YI! HELP! UTAH!


HAW! HAW! HAW!
BOOM! BOOM!
YEOW! YEOW!

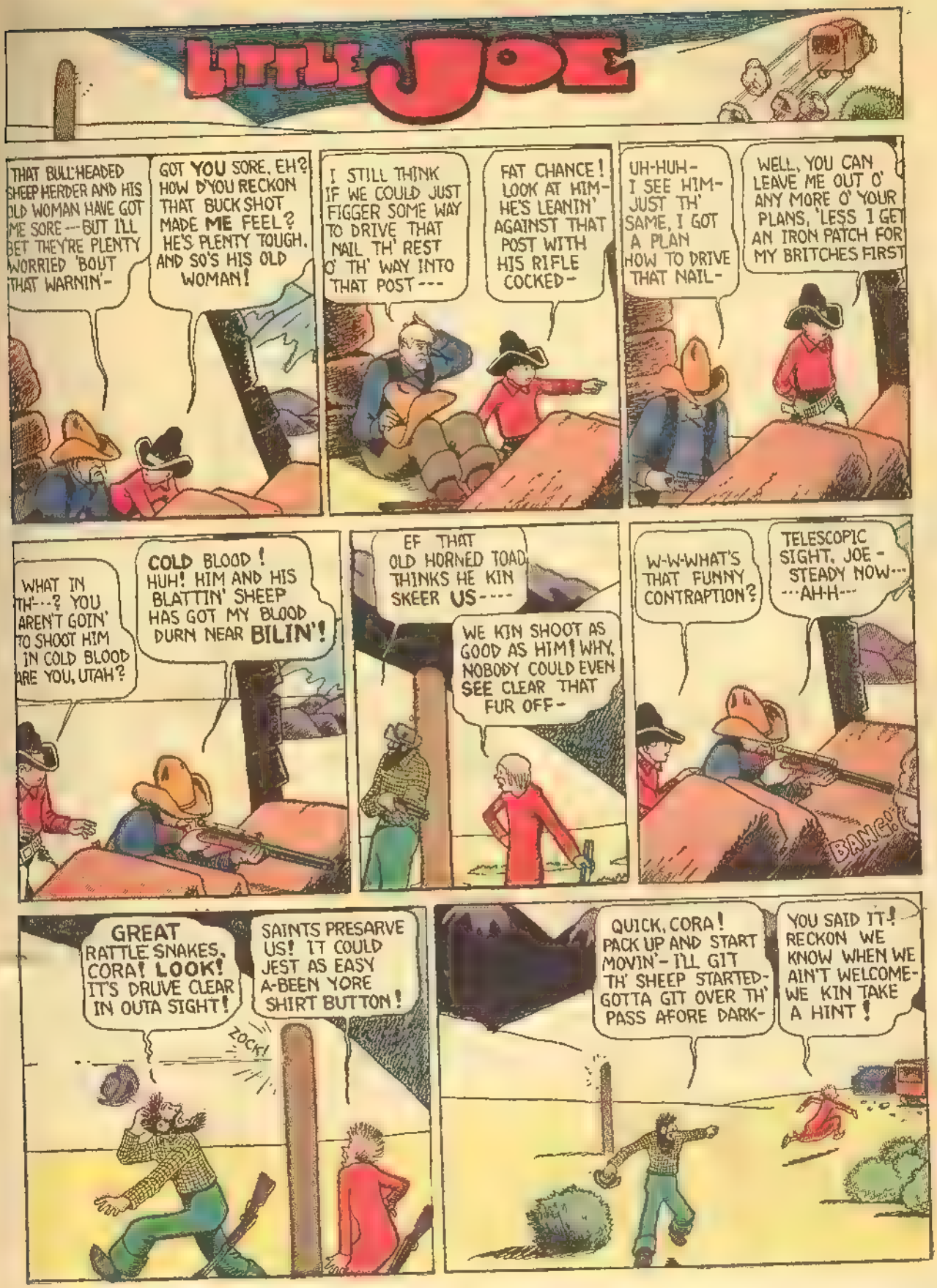
RIGHT NICE SHOOTIN', CORA- TETCHED HIM WITH BOTH BARRELS --- HUH! THEM TRYIN' T'SKEER US! SO WE'D BETTER BE GONE WHEN THAT NAIL'S DRUVE IN, EH? HAW! HAW!----

WHAT TH'---? LOOK! IT'S BEEN DRUVE IN OVER HALF-WAY!
GLORY BE! IT SORTA GIVES YE TH' CHILLS!

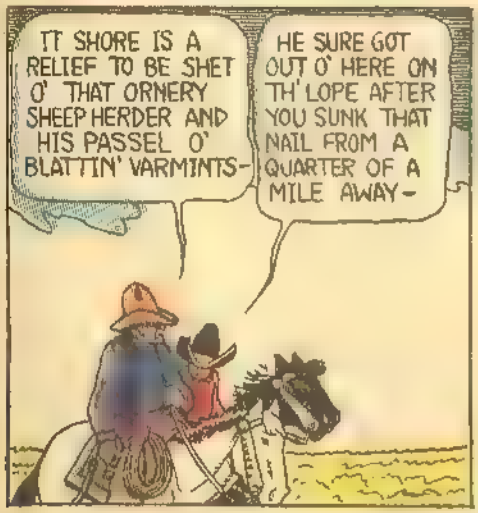

HEH! HEH! THINK THEY'RE SMART, EH? WA-A-AL, THAT'LL GIVE 'EM SOMETHIN' TO CHAW ON, I RECKON!


WELL, JOE - YOU DRAWED 'EM AWAY FROM THAT POST PERFECT- I KNEW MY IDEE WOULD WORK-
YEAH! A BIG IDEA YOU HAD! OUGHTA MELT THESE BUCK SHOT AND MAKE A MEDAL FOR YUH!

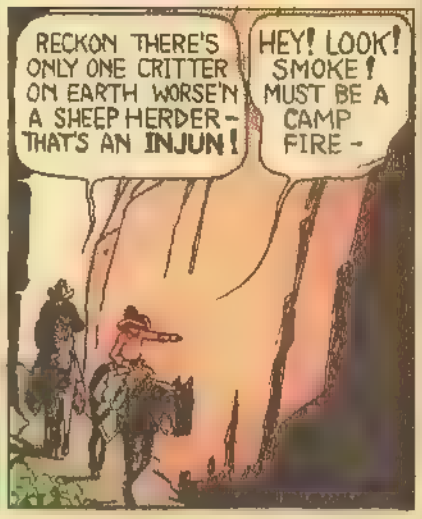
LITTLE JOE


THAT BULL'HEADED SHEEP HERDER AND HIS OLD WOMAN HAVE GOT ME SORE---BUT I'LL BET THEY'RE PLENTY WORRIED 'BOUT THAT WARNIN'-
GOT YOU SORE, EH? HOW D'YOU RECKON THAT BUCK SHOT MADE ME FEEL? HE'S PLENTY TOUGH, AND SO'S HIS OLD WOMAN!
I STILL THINK IF WE COULD JUST FIGGER SOME WAY TO DRIVE THAT NAIL TH' REST O' TH' WAY INTO THAT POST---
FAT CHANCE! LOOK AT HIM- HE'S LEANIN' AGAINST THAT POST WITH HIS RIFLE COCKED-
UH-HUH- I SEE HIM- JUST TH' SAME, I GOT A PLAN HOW TO DRIVE THAT NAIL-
WELL, YOU CAN LEAVE ME OUT O' ANY MORE O' YOUR PLANS, 'LESS I GET AN IRON PATCH FOR MY BRITCHES FIRST
WHAT IN TH'---? YOU AREN'T GOIN' TO SHOOT HIM IN COLD BLOOD ARE YOU, UTAH?
COLD BLOOD! HUH! HIM AND HIS BLATTIN' SHEEP HAS GOT MY BLOOD DURN NEAR BILIN'!
EF THAT OLD HORNED TOAD THINKS HE KIN SKEER US----
WE KIN SHOOT AS GOOD AS HIM! WHY, NOBODY COULD EVEN SEE CLEAR THAT FUR OFF-
W-W-WHAT'S THAT FUNNY CONTRAPTION?
TELESCOPIC SIGHT, JOE - STEADY NOW--- ---AH-H---
BANG!
GREAT RATTLE SNAKES, CORA! LOOK! IT'S DRUVE CLEAR IN OUTA SIGHT!
SAINTS PRESARVE US! IT COULD JEST AS EASY A-BEEN YORE SHIRT BUTTON!
ZOCK!
QUICK, CORA! PACK UP AND START MOVIN'- I'LL GIT TH' SHEEP STARTED- GOTTA GIT OVER TH' PASS AFORE DARK-
YOU SAID IT! RECKON WE KNOW WHEN WE AIN'T WELCOME- WE KIN TAKE A HINT!

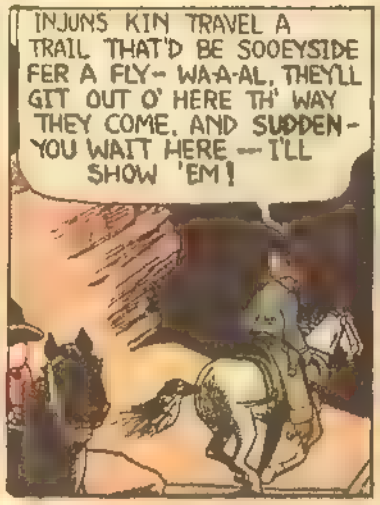
LITTLE JOE


IT SHORE IS A RELIEF TO BE SHET O' THAT ORNERY SHEEP HERDER AND HIS PASSEL O' BLATTIN' VARMINTS-
HE SURE GOT OUT O' HERE ON TH' LOPE AFTER YOU SUNK THAT NAIL FROM A QUARTER OF A MILE AWAY-

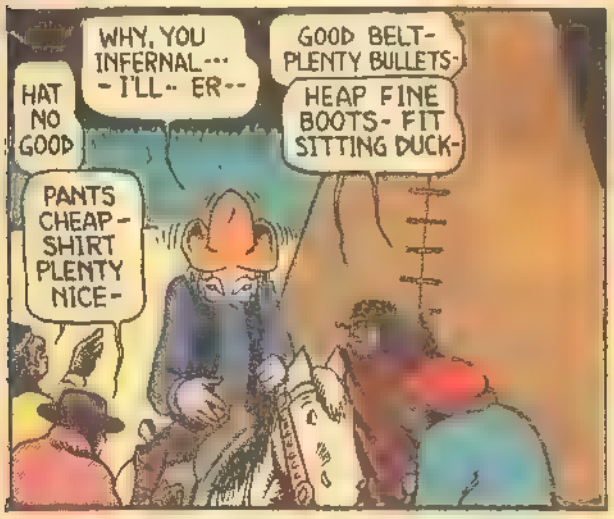
I'M A TOLERANT FELLER, BUT SHEEP RUINS ANY RANGE - AND I HATE SHEEP HERDERS EVEN WORSE'N I HATE SHEEP!

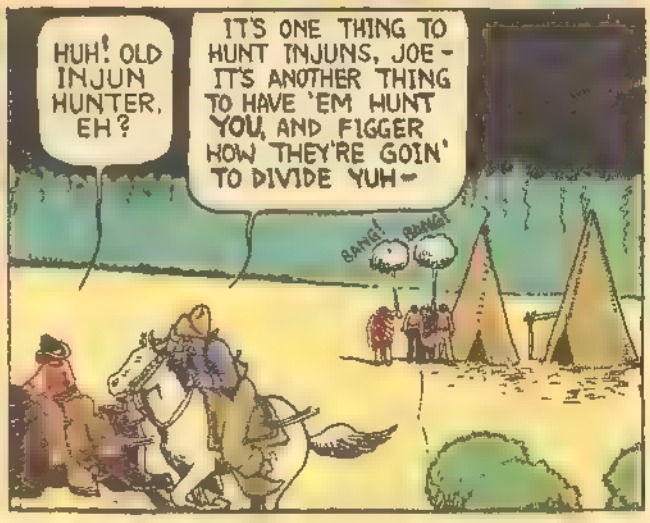

RECKON THERE'S ONLY ONE CRITTER ON EARTH WORSE'N A SHEEP HERDER - THAT'S AN INJUN!
HEY! LOOK! SMOKE! MUST BE A CAMP FIRE -

BY TH' GREAT AND GORY GIZZARD OF A GOAT! INJUNS! MUSTA SNUCK IN TH' BACK WAY, OVER SCRATCH TRAIL -
HOW COULD THEY? IT'S SO NARROW IT'S ONLY A SCRATCH ON TH' SIDE O' TH' MOUNTAIN WALL, IN SPOTS-

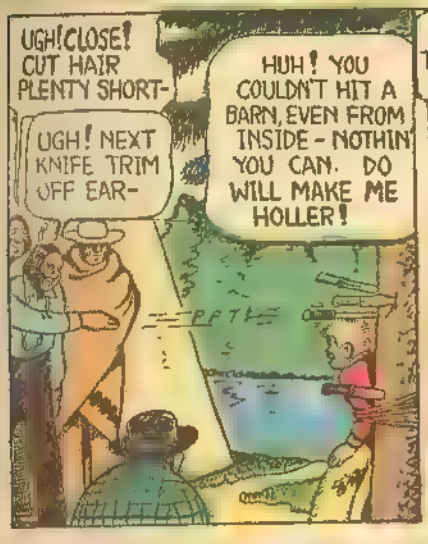

INJUNS KIN TRAVEL A TRAIL THAT'D BE SOOEYSIDE FER A FLY- WA-A-AL, THEY'LL GIT OUT O' HERE TH' WAY THEY COME, AND SUDDEN - YOU WAIT HERE -- I'LL SHOW 'EM!

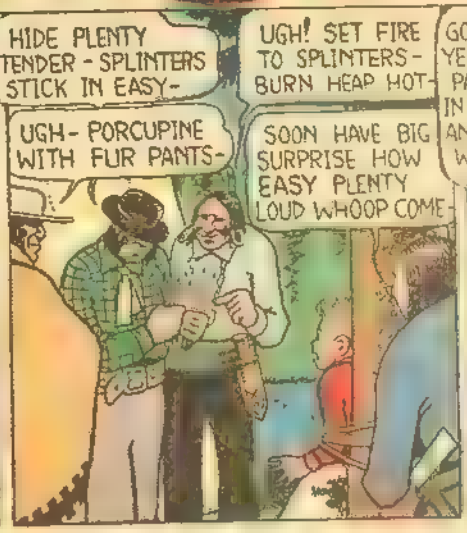
CONFOUND YOU RED SO-AND-SOS! THAT'S ONE O' OUR STEERS YOU'RE COOKIN'-----
UGH! SO WHAT?
HOW, PLENTY WIND-
MAYBE OLD LEATHER-FACE LIKE MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF IT-

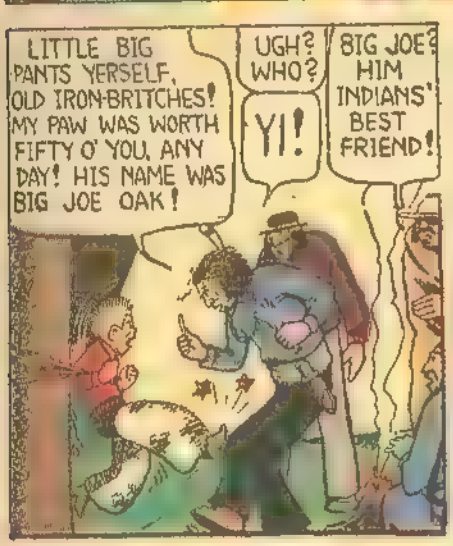

WHY, YOU INFERNAL--- - I'LL-- ER--
GOOD BELT- PLENTY BULLETS-
HEAP FINE BOOTS- FIT SITTING DUCK-
HAT NO GOOD
PANTS CHEAP - SHIRT PLENTY NICE-

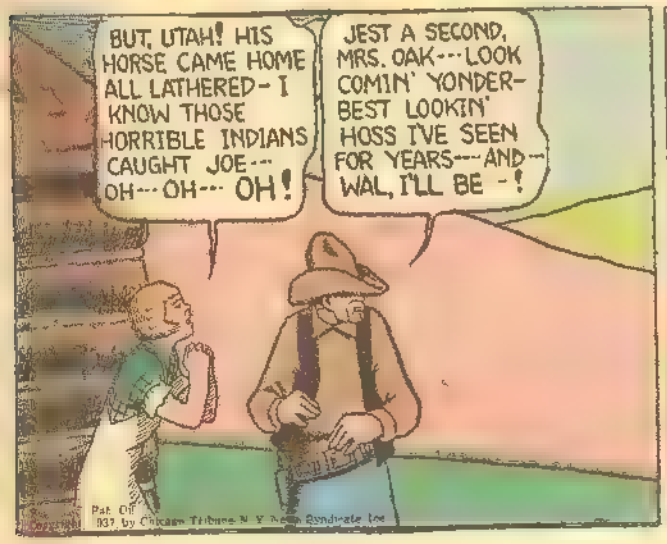

HUH! OLD INJUN HUNTER, EH?
IT'S ONE THING TO HUNT INJUNS, JOE - IT'S ANOTHER THING TO HAVE 'EM HUNT YOU, AND FIGGER HOW THEY'RE GOIN' TO DIVIDE YUH-
BANG!
BANG!

LITTLE JOE









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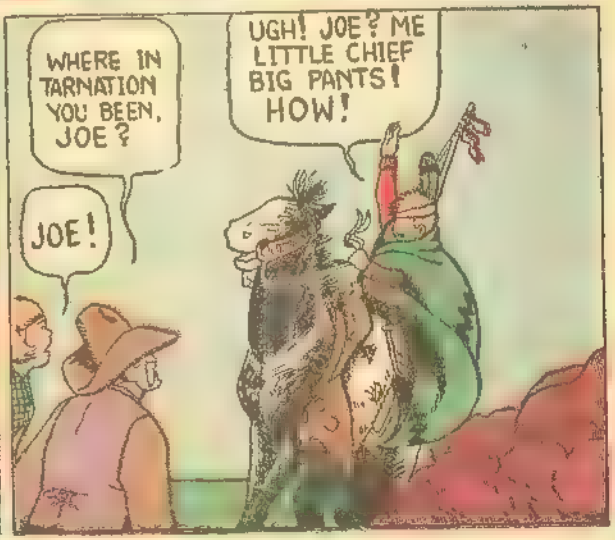
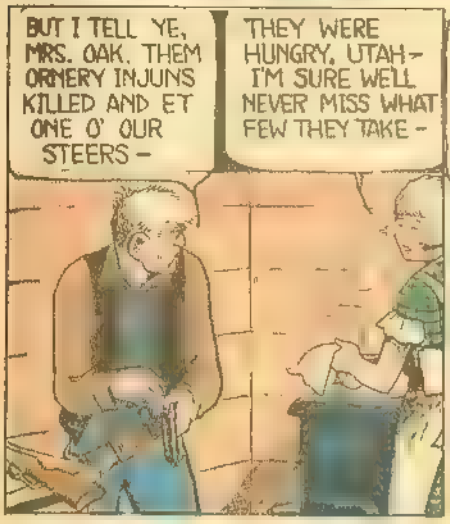
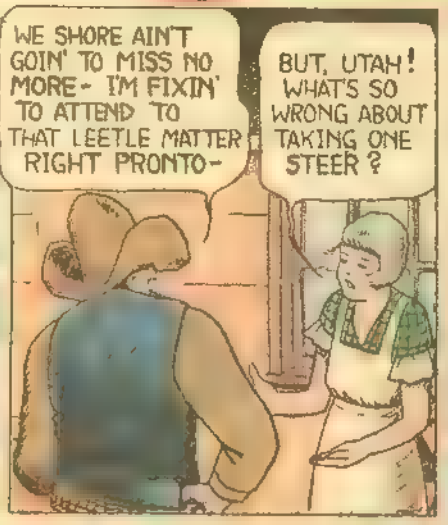
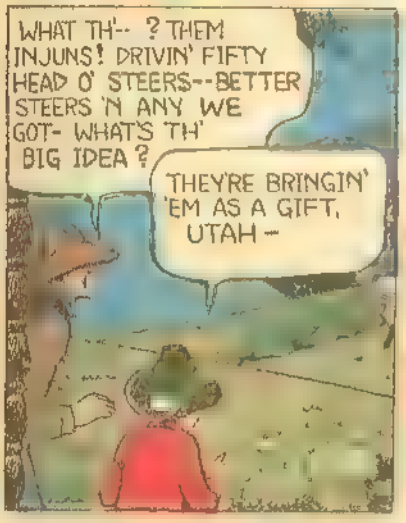


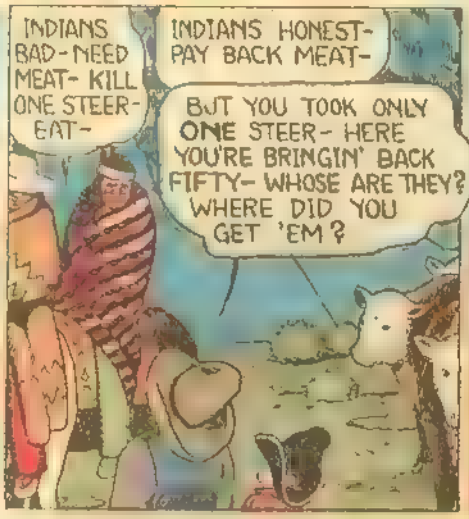
LITTLE JOE


BUT I TELL YE, MRS. OAK. THEM ORNERY INJUNS KILLED AND ET ONE O' OUR STEERS -
THEY WERE HUNGRY, UTAH - I'M SURE WE'LL NEVER MISS WHAT FEW THEY TAKE -

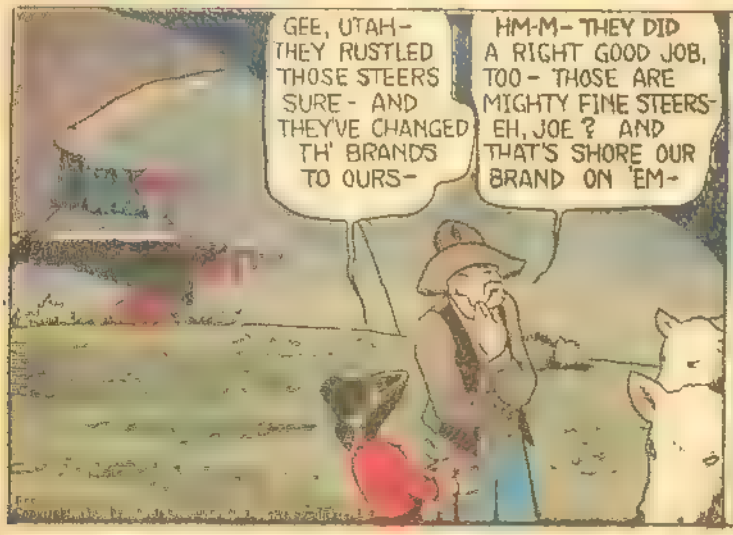

WE SHORE AIN'T GOIN' TO MISS NO MORE - I'M FIXIN' TO ATTEND TO THAT LEETLE MATTER RIGHT PRONTO -
BUT, UTAH! WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT TAKING ONE STEER ?

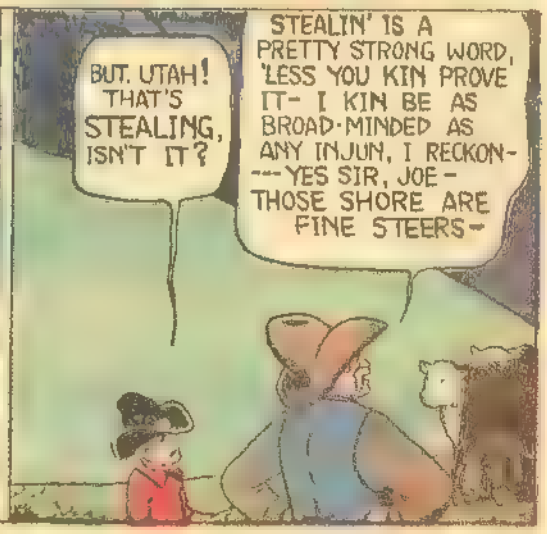
WRONG ??? WHY, IT'S STEALIN! NOTHIN' ON EARTH LOWER'N A CATTLE THIEF!
UTAH! UTAH! COME QUICK!


WHAT TH'-- ? THEM INJUNS! DRIVIN' FIFTY HEAD O' STEERS--BETTER STEERS 'N ANY WE GOT- WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA ?
THEY'RE BRINGIN' 'EM AS A GIFT, UTAH -

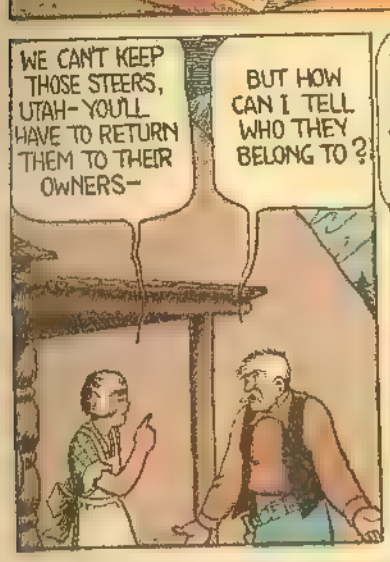

INDIANS BAD - NEED MEAT - KILL ONE STEER - EAT -
INDIANS HONEST - PAY BACK MEAT -
BUT YOU TOOK ONLY ONE STEER - HERE YOU'RE BRINGIN' BACK FIFTY - WHOSE ARE THEY? WHERE DID YOU GET 'EM ?

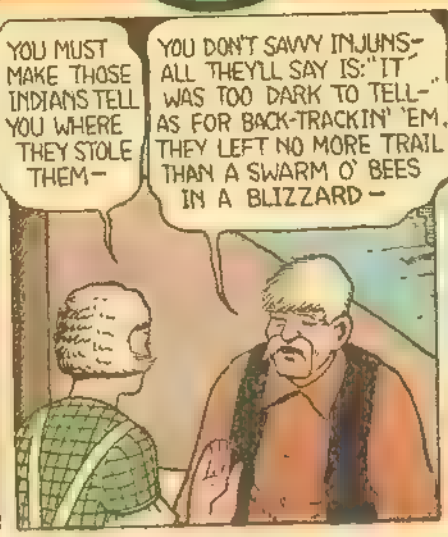
HOW CAN TELL WHERE FIND? HEAP DARK NIGHT -
INDIAN PLENTY CAREFUL - LEAVE NO TRACK -
ALL GOT MARK NOW SAME THIS RANCH -

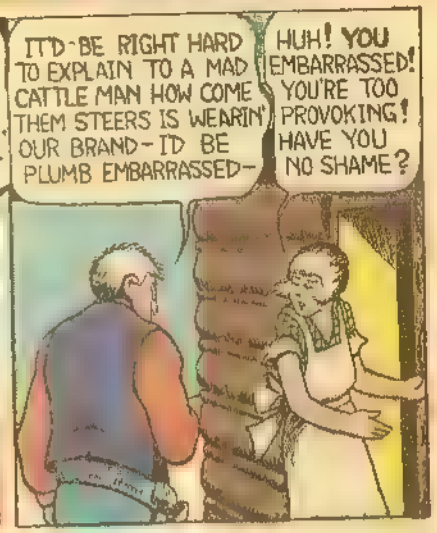

GEE, UTAH - THEY RUSTLED THOSE STEERS SURE - AND THEY'VE CHANGED TH' BRANDS TO OURS -
HM-M - THEY DID A RIGHT GOOD JOB, TOO - THOSE ARE MIGHTY FINE STEERS - EH, JOE ? AND THAT'S SHORE OUR BRAND ON 'EM -

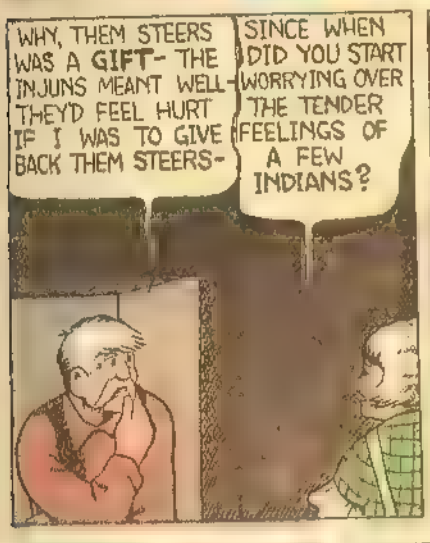

BUT, UTAH! THAT'S STEALING, ISN'T IT?
STEALIN' IS A PRETTY STRONG WORD, 'LESS YOU KIN PROVE IT - I KIN BE AS BROAD-MINDED AS ANY INJUN, I RECKON - --- YES SIR, JOE - THOSE SHORE ARE FINE STEERS -

LITTLE JOE

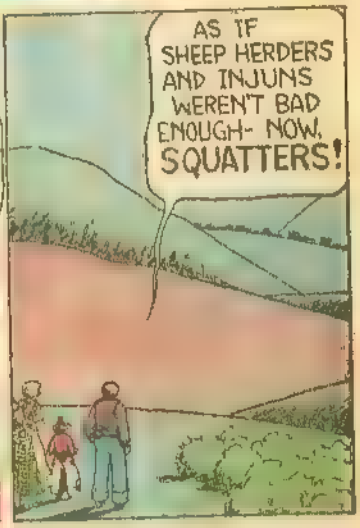

WE CAN'T KEEP THOSE STEERS, UTAH- YOU'LL HAVE TO RETURN THEM TO THEIR OWNERS-
BUT HOW CAN I TELL WHO THEY BELONG TO?

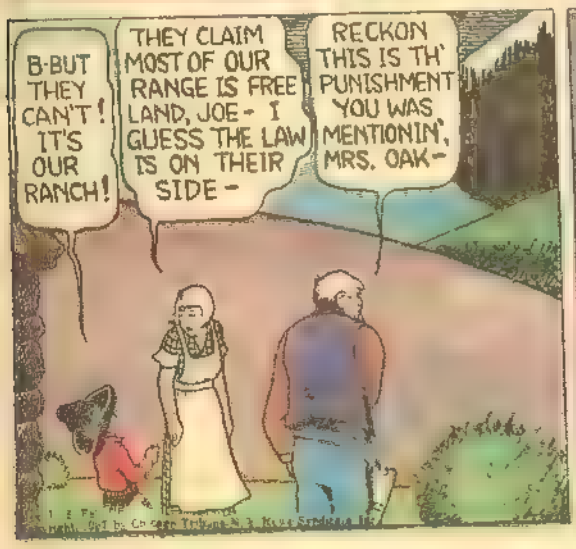

YOU MUST MAKE THOSE INDIANS TELL YOU WHERE THEY STOLE THEM-
YOU DON'T SAVVY INJUNS- ALL THEY'LL SAY IS: "IT WAS TOO DARK TO TELL-" AS FOR BACK-TRACKIN' 'EM, THEY LEFT NO MORE TRAIL THAN A SWARM O' BEES IN A BLIZZARD-


IT'D BE RIGHT HARD TO EXPLAIN TO A MAD CATTLE MAN HOW COME THEM STEERS IS WEARIN' OUR BRAND- I'D BE PLUMB EMBARRASSED-
HUH! YOU EMBARRASSED! YOU'RE TOO PROVOKING! HAVE YOU NO SHAME?


WHY, THEM STEERS WAS A GIFT- THE INJUNS MEANT WELL- THEY'D FEEL HURT IF I WAS TO GIVE BACK THEM STEERS-
SINCE WHEN DID YOU START WORRYING OVER THE TENDER FEELINGS OF A FEW INDIANS?

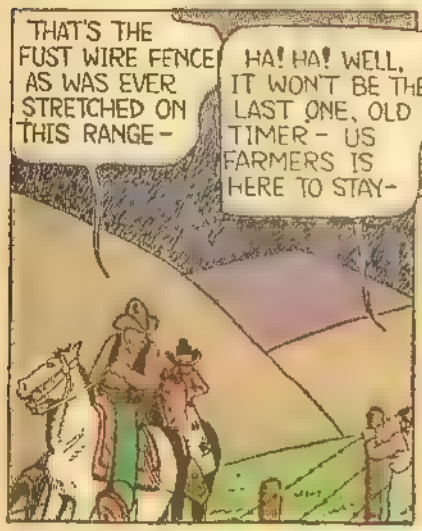
STEALING IS A CRIME- ACCEPTING THOSE CATTLE IS AS BAD AS STEALING THEM- YOU'LL BE PUNISHED!
WHAT'S UP, JOE? NOT A POSSE, MEBBY?
WORSE'N THAT! A WHOLE PASSEL O' WAGONS, AND...


AS IF SHEEP HERDERS AND INJUNS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH- NOW, SQUATTERS!


B-BUT THEY CAN'T! IT'S OUR RANCH!
THEY CLAIM MOST OF OUR RANGE IS FREE LAND, JOE- I GUESS THE LAW IS ON THEIR SIDE-
RECKON THIS IS TH' PUNISHMENT YOU WAS MENTIONIN', MRS. OAK-

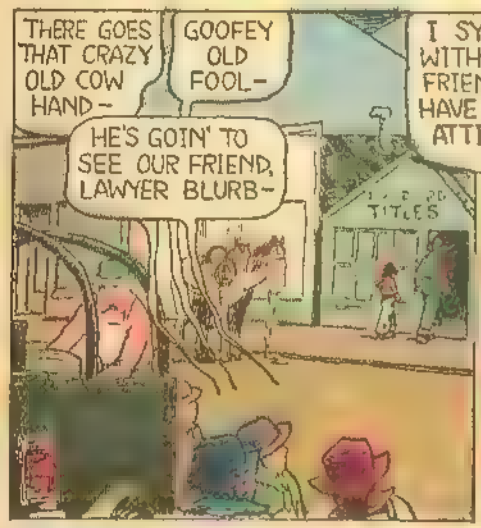
BUT WHY TAKE IT OUT ON YOU AND LITTLE JOE, TOO, FER MY SINS? ANYWAY, IT SEEMS A POWERFUL LOPSIDED PUNISHMENT FOR ONLY FIFTY STEERS THAT I DIDN'T REALLY STEAL NOHOW!

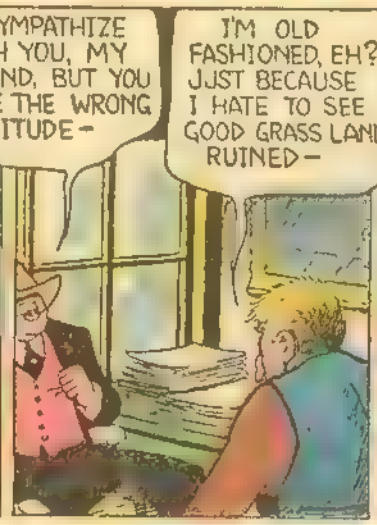
LITTLE JOE

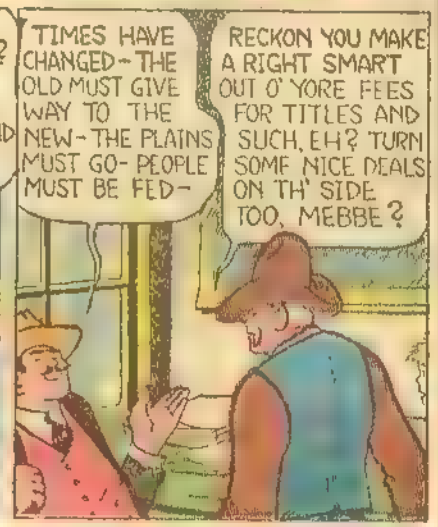

THAT'S THE FUST WIRE FENCE AS WAS EVER STRETCHED ON THIS RANGE-
HA! HA! WELL, IT WON'T BE THE LAST ONE, OLD TIMER- US FARMERS IS HERE TO STAY-

FARMERS, EH? SQUATTERS!!! THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE- RUININ' A GOOD RANGE-
YEAH? JUST 'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN USIN' FREE LAND FOR YEARS YOU THINK IT'S YOURS, I S'POSE-

WELL, IT AIN'T! WE'VE TOOK UP OUR CLAIMS LEGAL AND WE'RE A-GOIN' TO STAY RIGHT HERE-
MEBBE! FOR A WHILE- BUT YOU AIN'T GOIN' TO LIVE VERY HIGH OFF O' WHAT YOU RAISE ON THIS LAND-


THERE GOES THAT CRAZY OLD COW HAND-
GOOFEY OLD FOOL-
HE'S GOIN' TO SEE OUR FRIEND, LAWYER BLURB-
TITLES

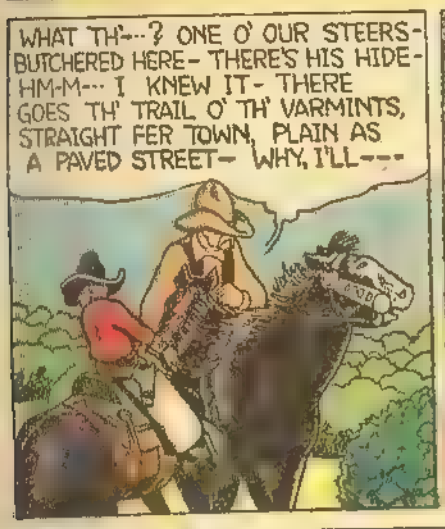

I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOU, MY FRIEND, BUT YOU HAVE THE WRONG ATTITUDE-
I'M OLD FASHIONED, EH? JUST BECAUSE I HATE TO SEE GOOD GRASS LAND RUINED-

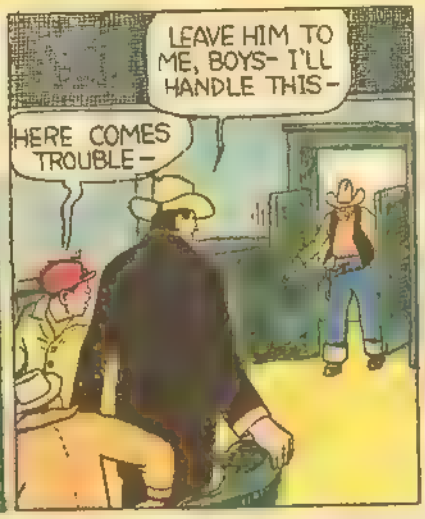

TIMES HAVE CHANGED- THE OLD MUST GIVE WAY TO THE NEW- THE PLAINS MUST GO- PEOPLE MUST BE FED-
RECKON YOU MAKE A RIGHT SMART OUT O' YORE FEES FOR TITLES AND SUCH, EH? TURN SOME NICE DEALS ON TH' SIDE TOO, MEBBE?

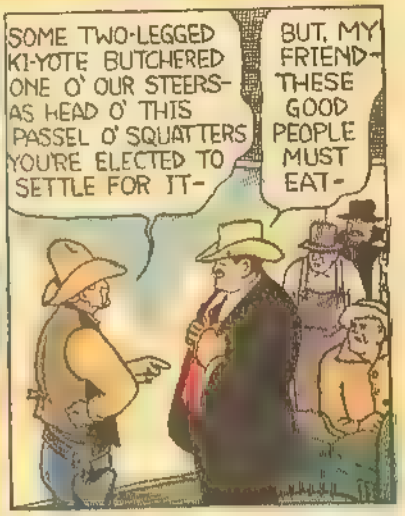
HR-R-RUMPH! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU SEE THE LIGHT- NOT ENGAGE IN PERSONALITIES-
WA-A-AL, RECKON I SEE TH' LIGHT PRETTY GOOD. FER AN OLD FELLER- SO LONG MISTER-

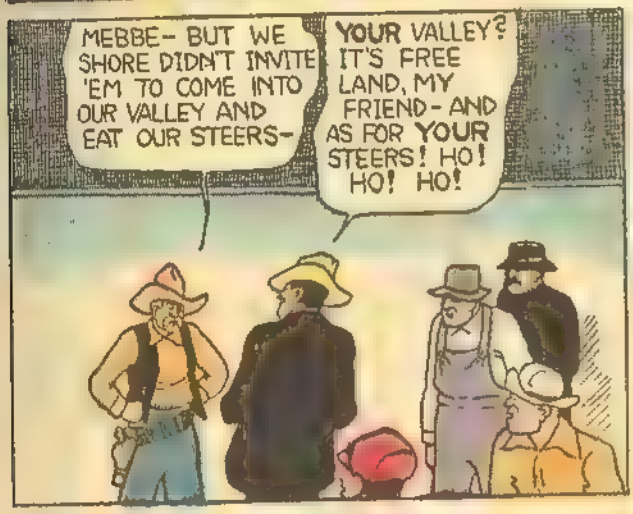
SQUATTERS OR NOT, I'M SHORE SORRY FOR 'EM- IF I HAD BLURB'S GLIB TONGUE, MEBBE I COULD SPARE 'EM A LOT O' GRIEF- BUT I'M ONLY A ILLITERATE OLD COW HAND-
LEFFINGWELL

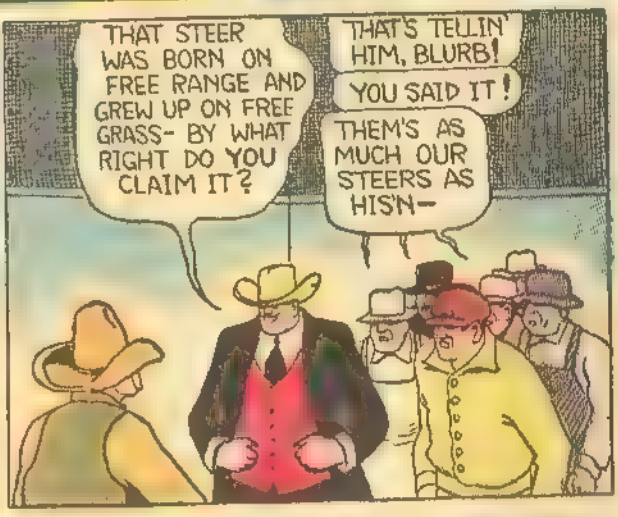
LITTLE JOE


WHAT TH'---? ONE O' OUR STEERS- BUTCHERED HERE- THERE'S HIS HIDE- HM-M--- I KNEW IT- THERE GOES TH' TRAIL O' TH' VARMINTS, STRAIGHT FER TOWN, PLAIN AS A PAVED STREET- WHY, I'LL---


LEAVE HIM TO ME, BOYS- I'LL HANDLE THIS-
HERE COMES TROUBLE-


SOME TWO-LEGGED KI-YOTE BUTCHERED ONE O' OUR STEERS- AS HEAD O' THIS PASSEL O' SQUATTERS YOU'RE ELECTED TO SETTLE FOR IT-
BUT, MY FRIEND- THESE GOOD PEOPLE MUST EAT-


MEBBE- BUT WE SHORE DIDN'T INVITE 'EM TO COME INTO OUR VALLEY AND EAT OUR STEERS-
YOUR VALLEY? IT'S FREE LAND, MY FRIEND- AND AS FOR YOUR STEERS! HO! HO! HO!


THAT STEER WAS BORN ON FREE RANGE AND GREW UP ON FREE GRASS- BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU CLAIM IT?
THAT'S TELLIN' HIM, BLURB!
YOU SAID IT!
THEM'S AS MUCH OUR STEERS AS HIS'N-

THAT'S YOUR LAW, MEBBE- WA-A-AL, THIS IS MINE!

THE BILL FER THAT STEER IS TWENTY DOLLARS, PAYABLE NOW!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! THERE YOU ARE- B-BE C-C-CAREFUL WITH THAT G-GUN-

GEE, UTAH- THEY'LL BE AWFUL MAD- AREN'T YOU AFRAID THEY'LL DO SOMETHING?
WA-AL- ONE THING I'LL BET THEY'LL DO IS THINK TWICE A'FORE THEY STEAL ANY MORE OF OUR STEERS!

LITTLE JOE

SAY- DID YUH HEAR? THE SQUATTERS HAVE NAMED THEIR TOWN EUTOPIA-
UTOPEY, EH? HUH! A HUDDLE O' TIN-ROOFED SHACKS, SURROUNDED BY A RING O' RUSTY BEAN CANS AND BROKEN BOTTLES-
ALMA C
LOOK! IT SAYS: "COME TO EUTOPIA, THE GEM CITY, IN THE MIDST OF A LUSCIOUS VALLEY"- SHORE MIGHTY PURTY PICTURES-
LET'S SEE THAT THING- IT'S ONE O' THEM FANCY FOLDERS BLURB HAS BEEN SENDIN' OUT TO CATCH TH' SUCKERS--
SEE? THAT'S HOW IT'S GOIN' TO LOOK, I GUESS- GREEN FIELDS- YELLER WHEAT FIELDS- ORCHARDS-
AND OH, SUCH DARLING LITTLE WHITE HOUSES- FINE SHADE TREES- GARDENS- PAVED STREETS, AND A LAKE-
BAH! NOTHIN' KIN GROW GOOD IN THIS VALLEY BUT BUNCH GRASS ---AND A FEW RATTLE SNAKES-
BUT THE SETTLERS SAY IT'S WONDERFUL SOIL - HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WON'T GROW THINGS? WE'VE NEVER TRIED -
GOT TO HAVE MORE'N DIRT TO GROW WHEAT AND CORN AND TREES AND GARDEN SASS-
OH, BUT THE WINTER SNOW MELTS--AND WE HAVE SOME RAIN- THEY SAY, WITH DRY FARMING----
HA! I'LL SAY IT'LL BE PLENTY DRY! 'LESS THEY IRRY-GATE-
WHY, OF COURSE, UTAH- WHY NOT? IT'S BEEN DONE OTHER PLACES - WHY NOT HERE?
WHAT KIN BE GROWED UP THIS HIGH, AND IN TH' COUPLE O' MONTHS WHEN IT DON'T FREEZE HARD NIGHTS? BUNCH GRASS, AND STEERS TO EAT IT- AND THAT'S ALL!
OH, YOU'RE JUST AN OLD PESSIMIST- MAYBE THIS IS ALL FOR THE BEST-
HUH! ALL FER TH' BEST O' THAT SLICK CROOK, BLURB - BUT IT'LL BE STARVATION FER THEM SQUATTERS, AS ASKED FER IT- RUIN FER US AS DIDN'T ASK FER IT!
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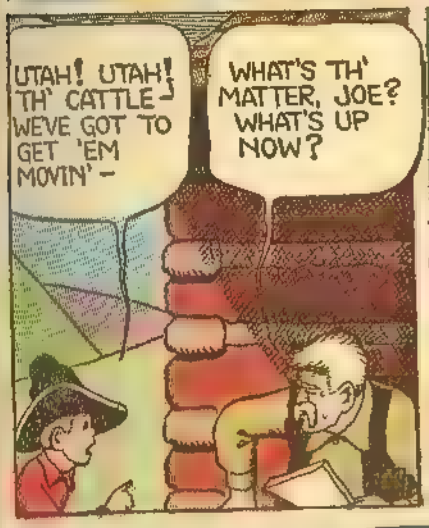
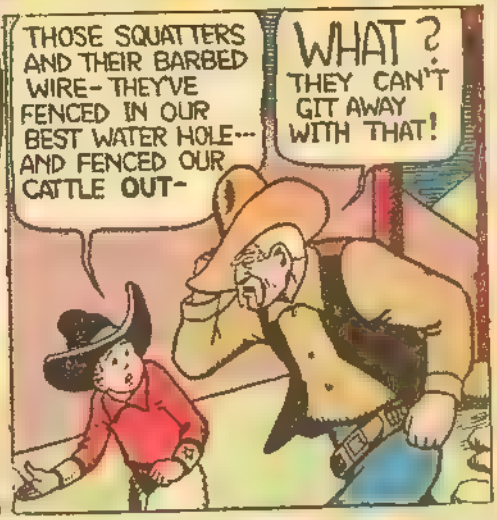
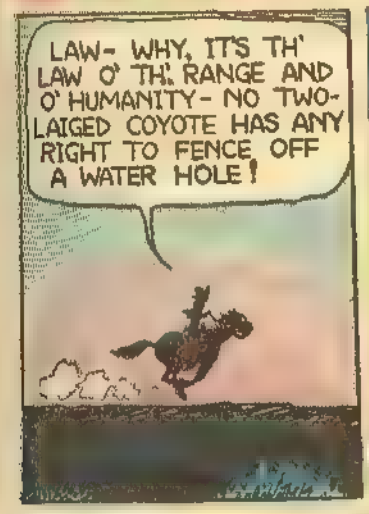
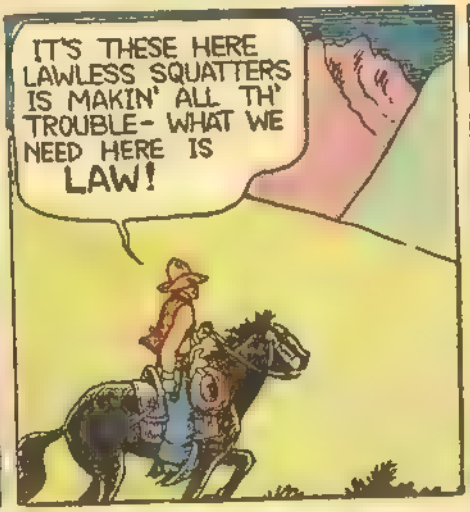
LITTLE JOE

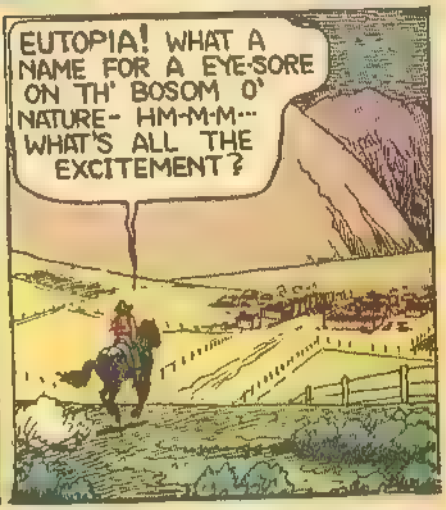

UTAH! UTAH! TH' CATTLE - WE'VE GOT TO GET 'EM MOVIN' -
WHAT'S TH' MATTER, JOE? WHAT'S UP NOW?

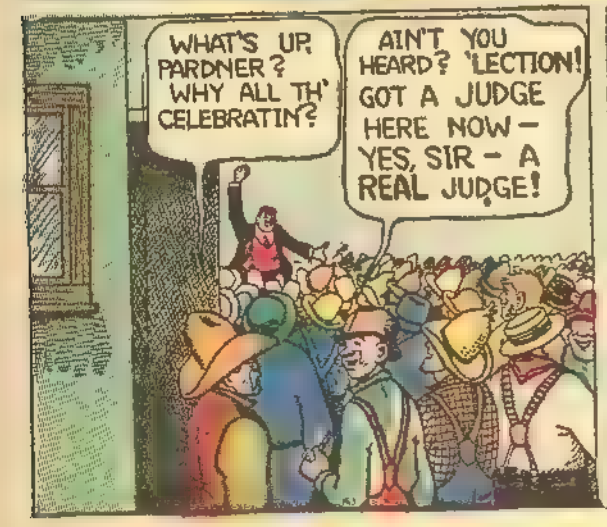

THOSE SQUATTERS AND THEIR BARBED WIRE - THEY'VE FENCED IN OUR BEST WATER HOLE--- AND FENCED OUR CATTLE OUT -
WHAT? THEY CAN'T GIT AWAY WITH THAT!

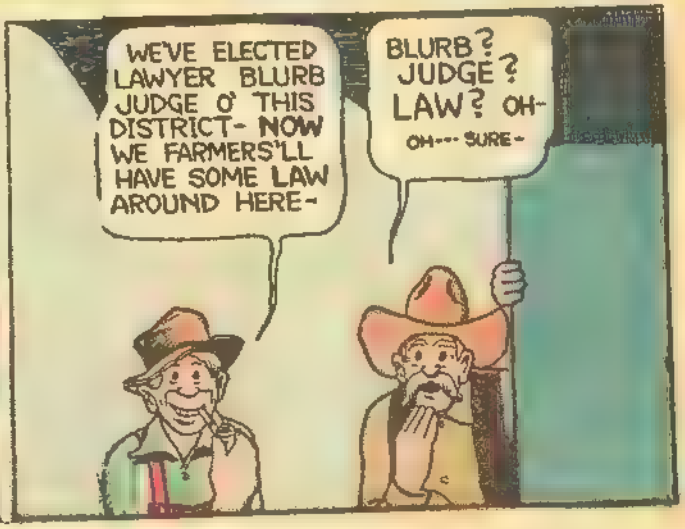
WHY, THAT DON'T LEAVE US BUT ONE WATER HOLE, AND IT'LL RUN DRY - BUT START TH' STEERS A-MOVIN' THAT WAY, JOE - I'M RIDIN' TO TOWN -


LAW - WHY, IT'S TH' LAW O' TH' RANGE AND O' HUMANITY - NO TWO-LAIGED COYOTE HAS ANY RIGHT TO FENCE OFF A WATER HOLE!

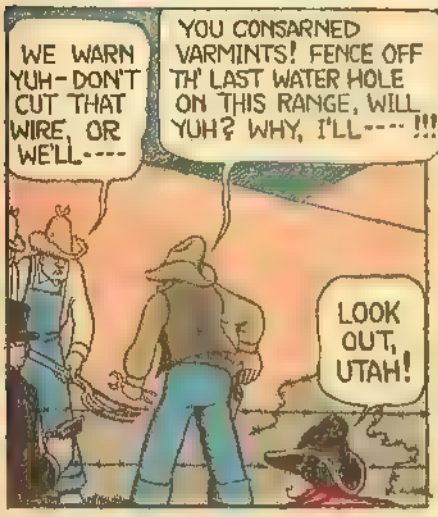

IT'S THESE HERE LAWLESS SQUATTERS IS MAKIN' ALL TH' TROUBLE - WHAT WE NEED HERE IS LAW!

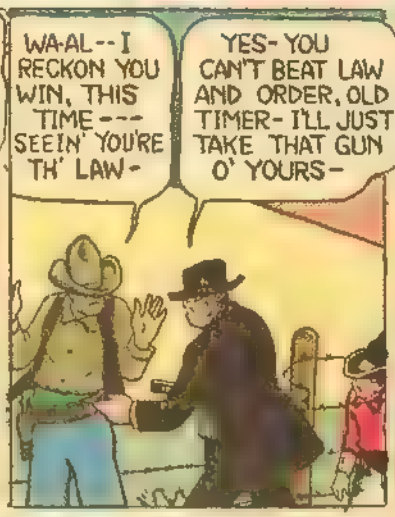

EUTOPIA! WHAT A NAME FOR A EYE-SORE ON TH' BOSOM O' NATURE - HM-M-M--- WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT?

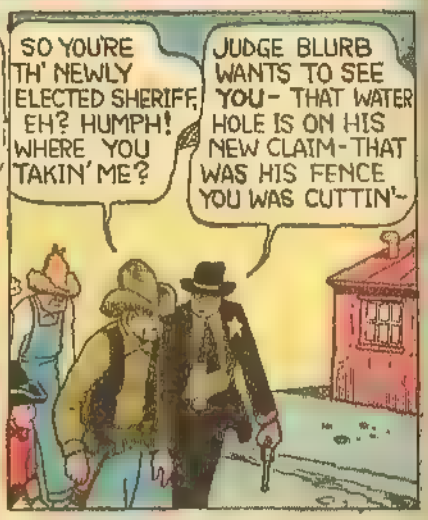

WHAT'S UP, PARDNER? WHY ALL TH' CELEBRATIN'?
AIN'T YOU HEARD? 'LECTION! GOT A JUDGE HERE NOW - YES, SIR - A REAL JUDGE!

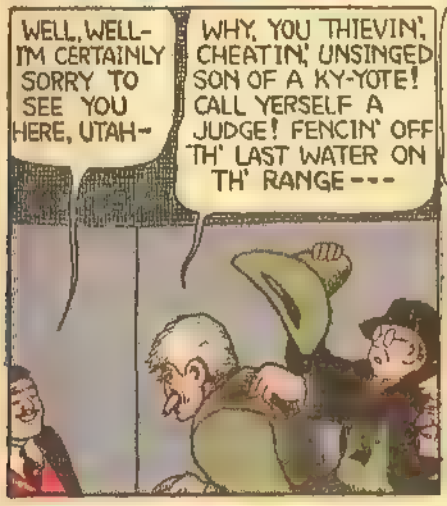

WE'VE ELECTED LAWYER BLURB JUDGE O' THIS DISTRICT - NOW WE FARMERS'LL HAVE SOME LAW AROUND HERE -
BLURB? JUDGE? LAW? OH - OH--- SURE -

LITTLE JOE


WE WARN YUH - DON'T CUT THAT WIRE, OR WE'LL----
YOU CONSARNED VARMINTS! FENCE OFF TH' LAST WATER HOLE ON THIS RANGE, WILL YUH? WHY, I'LL---- !!!
LOOK OUT, UTAH!


WA-AL -- I RECKON YOU WIN, THIS TIME --- SEEIN' YOU'RE TH' LAW -
YES - YOU CAN'T BEAT LAW AND ORDER, OLD TIMER - I'LL JUST TAKE THAT GUN O' YOURS -

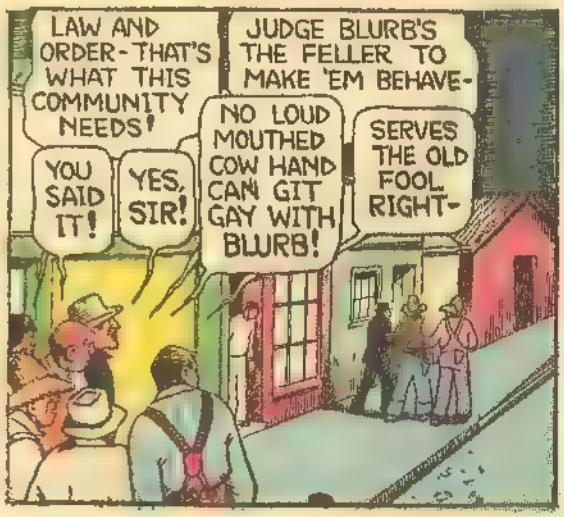

SO YOU'RE TH' NEWLY ELECTED SHERIFF, EH? HUMPH! WHERE YOU TAKIN' ME?
JUDGE BLURB WANTS TO SEE YOU - THAT WATER HOLE IS ON HIS NEW CLAIM - THAT WAS HIS FENCE YOU WAS CUTTIN'-


WELL, WELL - I'M CERTAINLY SORRY TO SEE YOU HERE, UTAH -
WHY, YOU THIEVIN', CHEATIN', UNSINGED SON OF A KY-YOTE! CALL YERSELF A JUDGE! FENCIN' OFF TH' LAST WATER ON TH' RANGE ---

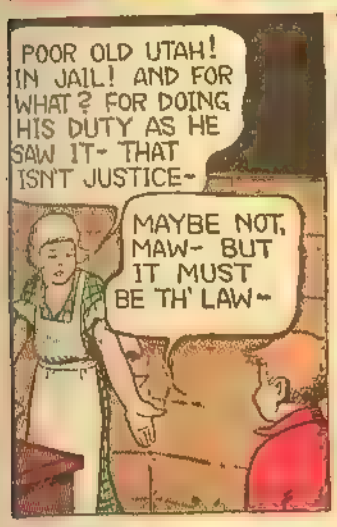
SILENCE! I HEREBY FINE YOU FIFTY DOLLARS FOR CONTEMPT OF THIS COURT!
HUH! FIFTY DOLLARS, EH, FOR MY CONTEMPT FER YOU? HA! IT'S A BARGAIN AT THAT PRICE ----

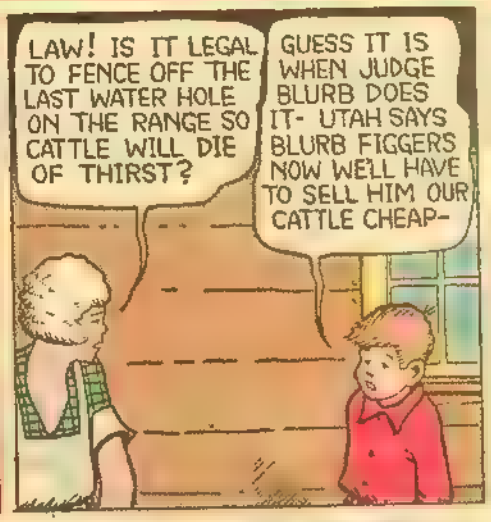
THERE'S YER FIFTY DOLLARS ---

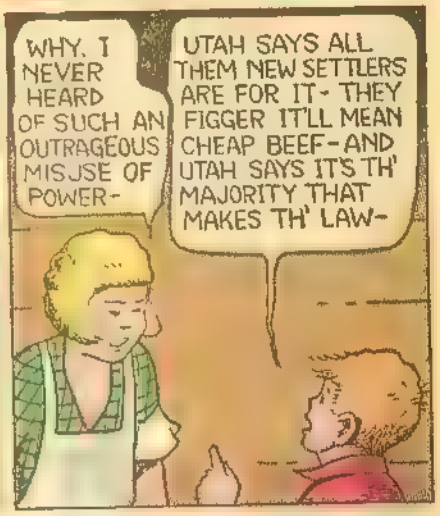
AND FOR DISORDERLY CONDUCT --- SIXTY DAYS IN JAIL! LOCK HIM UP, BOYS!
W-WHAT? WHY, YOU CAN'T ---
COME ALONG, YOU ---
LEFFINGWELL


LAW AND ORDER - THAT'S WHAT THIS COMMUNITY NEEDS!
YOU SAID IT!
YES, SIR!
JUDGE BLURB'S THE FELLER TO MAKE 'EM BEHAVE -
NO LOUD MOUTHED COW HAND CAN GIT GAY WITH BLURB!
SERVES THE OLD FOOL RIGHT -

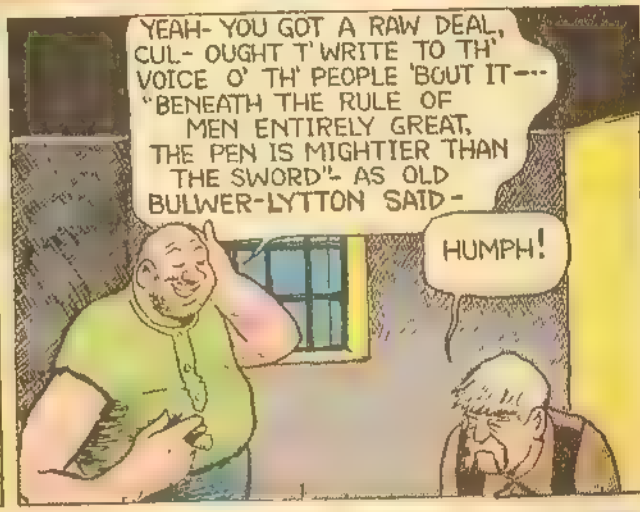
SHERIFF TROYE
LITTLE JOE


POOR OLD UTAH! IN JAIL! AND FOR WHAT? FOR DOING HIS DUTY AS HE SAW IT- THAT ISN'T JUSTICE-
MAYBE NOT, MAW- BUT IT MUST BE TH' LAW-


LAW! IS IT LEGAL TO FENCE OFF THE LAST WATER HOLE ON THE RANGE SO CATTLE WILL DIE OF THIRST?
GUESS IT IS WHEN JUDGE BLURB DOES IT- UTAH SAYS BLURB FIGGERS NOW WE'LL HAVE TO SELL HIM OUR CATTLE CHEAP-

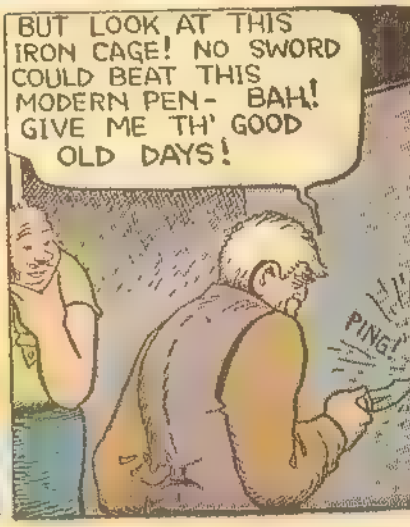

WHY, I NEVER HEARD OF SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS MISUSE OF POWER-
UTAH SAYS ALL THEM NEW SETTLERS ARE FOR IT- THEY FIGGER IT'LL MEAN CHEAP BEEF- AND UTAH SAYS IT'S TH' MAJORITY THAT MAKES TH' LAW-

I DON'T CARE! JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM, AND ONLY THREE OF US, GIVES THEM NO RIGHT TO ROB US-
THAT'S WHAT UTAH THOUGHT, MAW- LOOK WHAT HAPPENED- HE'S IN JAIL-

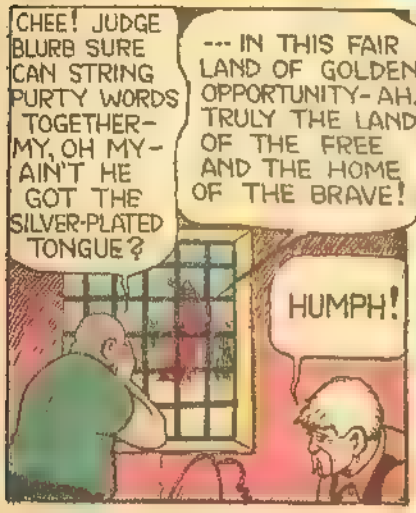

YEAH- YOU GOT A RAW DEAL, CUL- OUGHT T' WRITE TO TH' VOICE O' TH' PEOPLE 'BOUT IT--- "BENEATH THE RULE OF MEN ENTIRELY GREAT, THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD"- AS OLD BULWER-LYTTON SAID-
HUMPH!

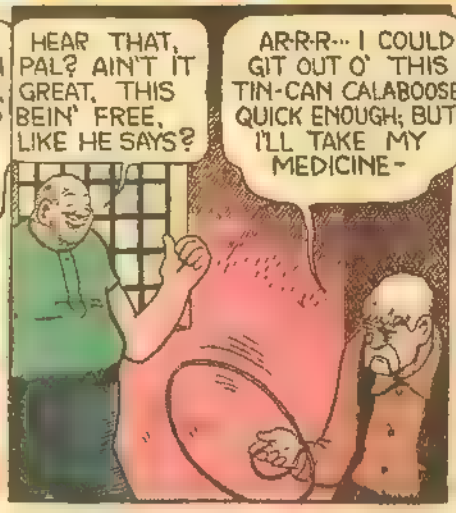
YEP! RECKON YOU'RE MORE'N HALF RIGHT, NOW DAYS- BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY-

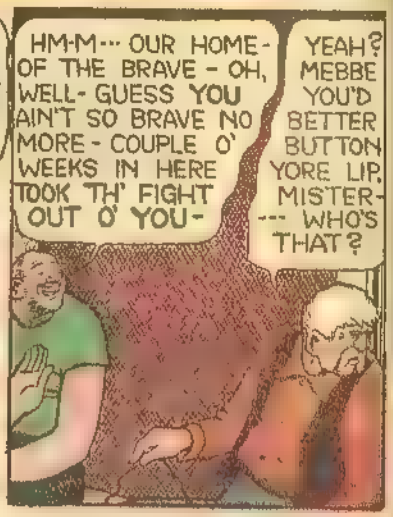
WHY, I KIN RECOLLECT PLENTY TIMES I'VE CARVED MY WAY OUT O' A CALABOOSE WITH A BOWIE KNIFE-

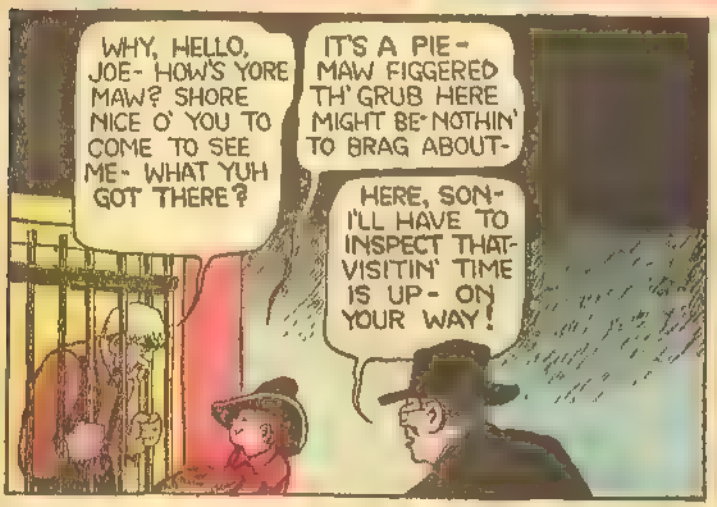

BUT LOOK AT THIS IRON CAGE! NO SWORD COULD BEAT THIS MODERN PEN- BAH! GIVE ME TH' GOOD OLD DAYS!
PING!

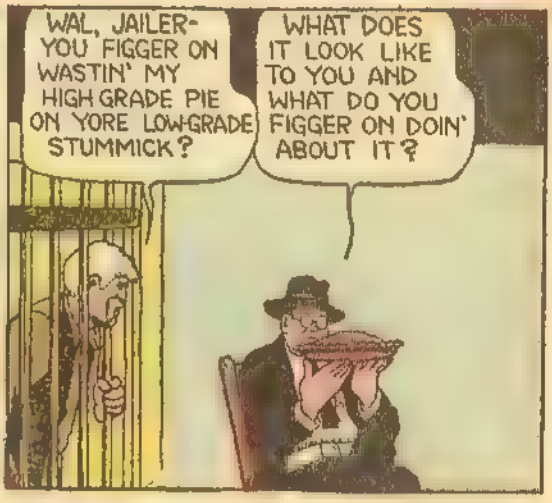
LITTLE JOE


CHEE! JUDGE BLURB SURE CAN STRING PURTY WORDS TOGETHER- MY, OH MY- AIN'T HE GOT THE SILVER-PLATED TONGUE?
--- IN THIS FAIR LAND OF GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY- AH, TRULY THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE!
HUMPH!

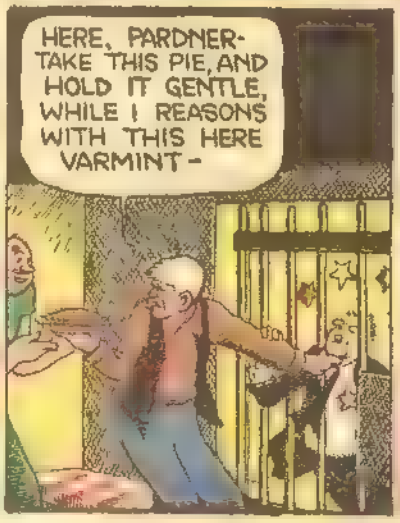

HEAR THAT, PAL? AIN'T IT GREAT, THIS BEIN' FREE, LIKE HE SAYS?
AR-R-R--- I COULD GIT OUT O' THIS TIN-CAN CALABOOSE QUICK ENOUGH; BUT I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE-

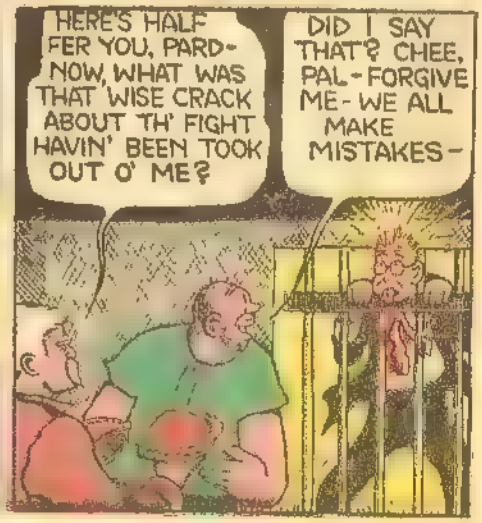

HM-M--- OUR HOME- OF THE BRAVE - OH, WELL- GUESS YOU AIN'T SO BRAVE NO MORE - COUPLE O' WEEKS IN HERE TOOK TH' FIGHT OUT O' YOU-
YEAH? MEBBE YOU'D BETTER BUTTON YORE LIP, MISTER- --- WHO'S THAT?


WHY, HELLO, JOE- HOW'S YORE MAW? SHORE NICE O' YOU TO COME TO SEE ME- WHAT YUH GOT THERE?
IT'S A PIE- MAW FIGGERED TH' GRUB HERE MIGHT BE NOTHIN' TO BRAG ABOUT-
HERE, SON- I'LL HAVE TO INSPECT THAT- VISITIN' TIME IS UP- ON YOUR WAY!


WAL, JAILER- YOU FIGGER ON WASTIN' MY HIGH GRADE PIE ON YORE LOW-GRADE STUMMICK?
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU AND WHAT DO YOU FIGGER ON DOIN' ABOUT IT?

HANG ONTO THAT PIE, YOU KIYOTE, OR I'LL SPLIT YER GIZZARD!
E-YI!

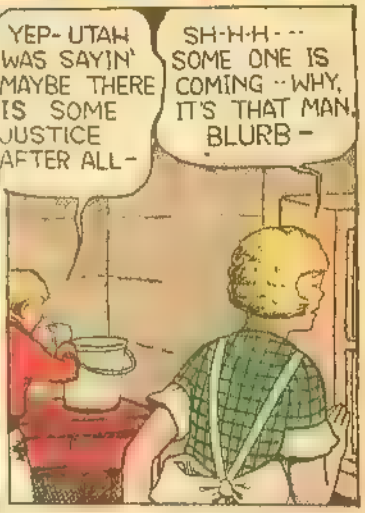

HERE, PARDNER- TAKE THIS PIE, AND HOLD IT GENTLE, WHILE I REASONS WITH THIS HERE VARMINT-


HERE'S HALF FER YOU, PARD- NOW, WHAT WAS THAT WISE CRACK ABOUT TH' FIGHT HAVIN' BEEN TOOK OUT O' ME?
DID I SAY THAT? CHEE, PAL- FORGIVE ME- WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES-

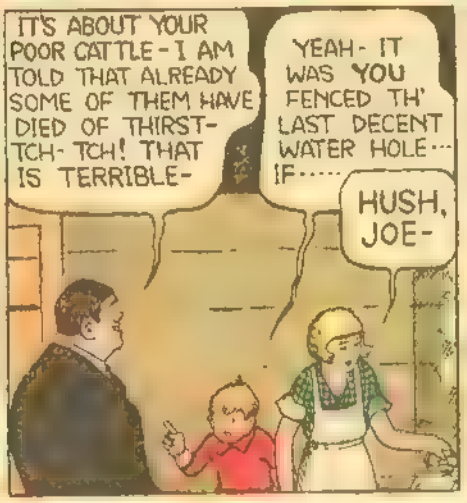
LITTLE JOE

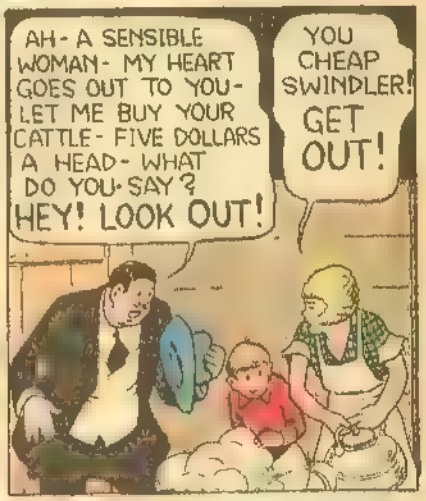
HOW IS UTAH GETTING ALONG, JOE? THAT JAIL MUST BE A TERRIBLE PLACE IN SUCH HOT WEATHER-
OH, UTAH SEEMED REAL CHIPPER - HE SAYS HE DOESN'T MIND TH' HEAT- SAYS HE HOPES IT GETS TWICE AS HOT-

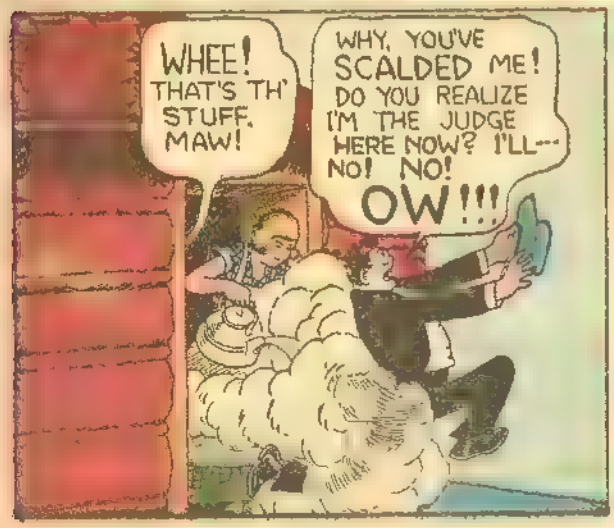
WHY, HOW CAN HE WISH ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT A REAL SCORCHER FOR TWO WEEKS NOW WOULD DO TO TH' CROPS- AND YOU KNOW WHAT UTAH THINKS O' TH' FARMERS THAT PLOUGHED UP OUR RANGE-

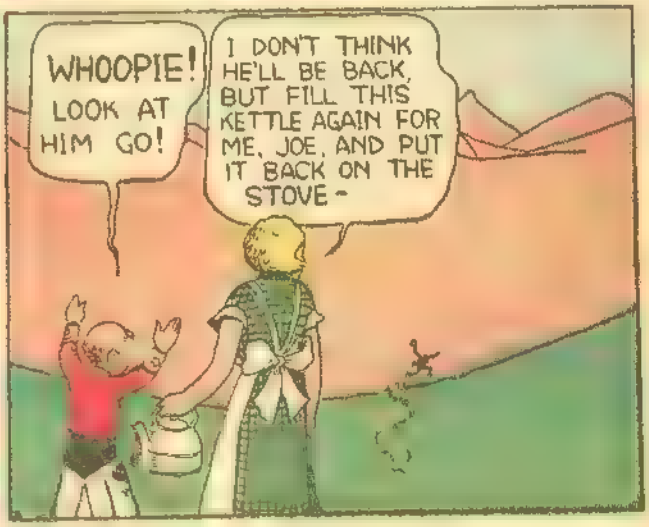

YEP- UTAH WAS SAYIN' MAYBE THERE IS SOME JUSTICE AFTER ALL-
SH-H-H-- SOME ONE IS COMING -- WHY, IT'S THAT MAN, BLURB -

AH, MRS. OAK- HOW DO YOU DO? MAY I STEP IN OUT OF THIS BLAZING SUN? I HAVE A LITTLE BUSINESS MATTER I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU-


IT'S ABOUT YOUR POOR CATTLE - I AM TOLD THAT ALREADY SOME OF THEM HAVE DIED OF THIRST- TCH- TCH! THAT IS TERRIBLE-
YEAH - IT WAS YOU FENCED TH' LAST DECENT WATER HOLE... IF.....
HUSH, JOE-


AH - A SENSIBLE WOMAN - MY HEART GOES OUT TO YOU - LET ME BUY YOUR CATTLE - FIVE DOLLARS A HEAD - WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HEY! LOOK OUT!
YOU CHEAP SWINDLER! GET OUT!


WHEE! THAT'S TH' STUFF, MAW!
WHY, YOU'VE SCALDED ME! DO YOU REALIZE I'M THE JUDGE HERE NOW? I'LL--- NO! NO!
OW!!!


WHOOPIE! LOOK AT HIM GO!
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE BACK, BUT FILL THIS KETTLE AGAIN FOR ME, JOE, AND PUT IT BACK ON THE STOVE -

LITTLE JOE

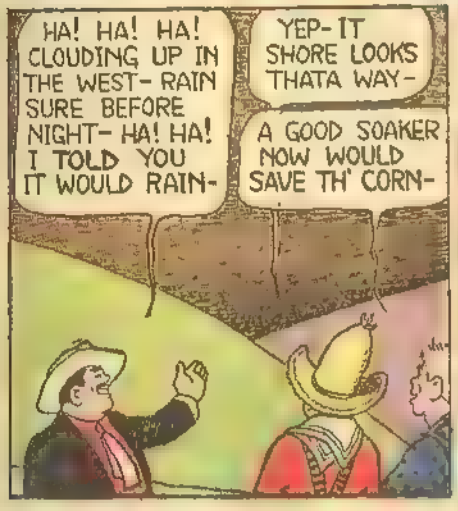
HA! HA! WHY SO GLUM, NEIGHBORS? THE WORLD HASN'T COME TO AN END-CHEER UP!
YEAH? WELL, MY CORN'S COME TO AN END-DRY AS TINDER-
MY CROPS WILL BE RUINED IF IT DOESN'T RAIN SOON-
RAIN? HA! HA! IT'S BOUND TO RAIN TOMORROW-THEN WATCH THE CROPS GROW- WHY, THIS VIRGIN SOIL---
VIRGIN SOIL AIN'T NO GOOD WITHOUT RAIN-
AND THAT SUN- BET IT'S 120° IN TH' SHADE-
CONFOUND IT! WHY DOESN'T IT RAIN? THESE YOKELS ARE BEGINNING TO WORRY- NEXT THING THEY'LL BEGIN TO BLAME ME -
HEY, MAW! HERE COME THOSE INDIANS-
WHAT DO THEY WANT HERE?
LAST WATER DRY UP-
NO RAIN-
CATTLE SOON DEAD-
PLENTY TROUBLE COME-
PLENTY TROUBLE COME, EH? IT'S HERE NOW-
INDIANS KNOW GOOD WATER HOLE IN MOUNTAINS-
INDIANS DRIVE CATTLE TO WATER-PLENTY GRASS-
WHAT? YOU THINK I'D LET YOU DRIVE OFF OUR CATTLE, YOU THIEVES?
NO! NO! NOT THIEVES- FRIENDS-
OH, GO AHEAD- THEY'LL DIE OF THIRST HERE- WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
HEAP GOOD WOMAN-
MAYBE SCALP EVIL BLURB MAKE PLENTY NICE GIFT MRS. OAK-
FINE LITTLE BRAVE-
UGH- NO- UTAH LIKE- MRS. OAK NO LIKE- GREAT SPIRIT- HIM PUNISH EVIL ONE-

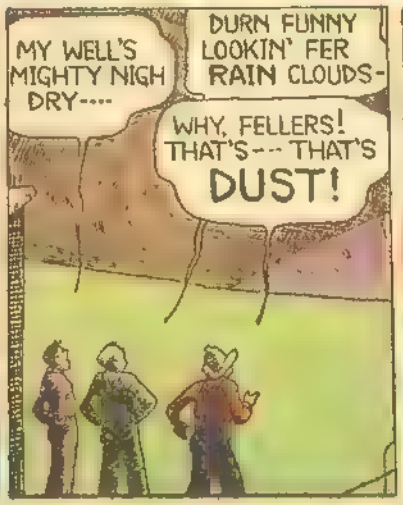
LITTLE JOE

SA-A-AY, CUL- (SNIFF! SNIFF!) SMELL THAT? KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
SURE- DUST! SMELLED IT TWO HOURS AGO- IT WAS BOUND TO COME-

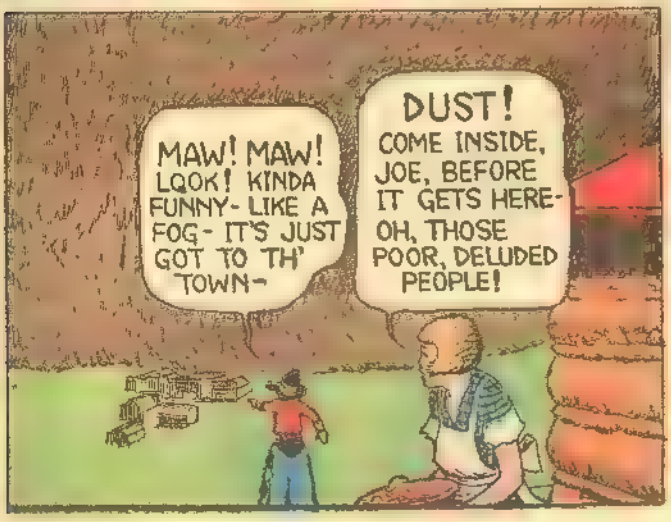
DUST STORM! WHY, THAT'LL RUIN THESE FARMERS-
RECKON SO- THE GRASS IS ALL THAT HELD TH' DIRT DOWN IN THIS COUNTRY- THEY PLOWED THE GRASS UNDER-

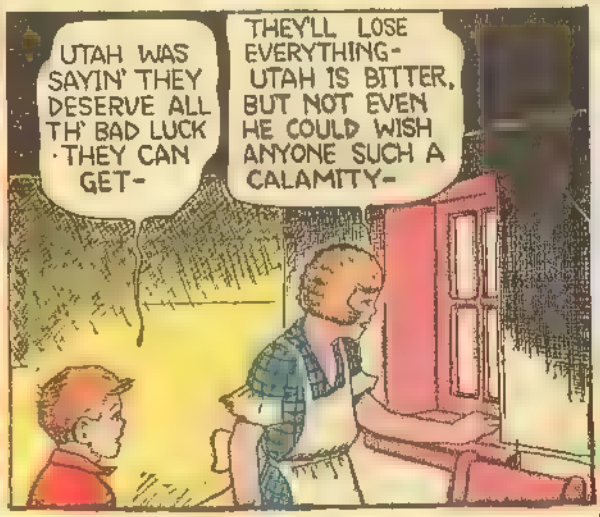
I TRIED TO TELL 'EM- THEY LAUGHED AT ME- BLURB TOLD 'EM WHAT THEY WANTED TO BELIEVE, AND TOOK THEIR MONEY- WA-A-AL, LET 'EM LAUGH THIS OFF-


HA! HA! HA! CLOUDING UP IN THE WEST- RAIN SURE BEFORE NIGHT- HA! HA! I TOLD YOU IT WOULD RAIN-
YEP- IT SHORE LOOKS THATA WAY-
A GOOD SOAKER NOW WOULD SAVE TH' CORN-

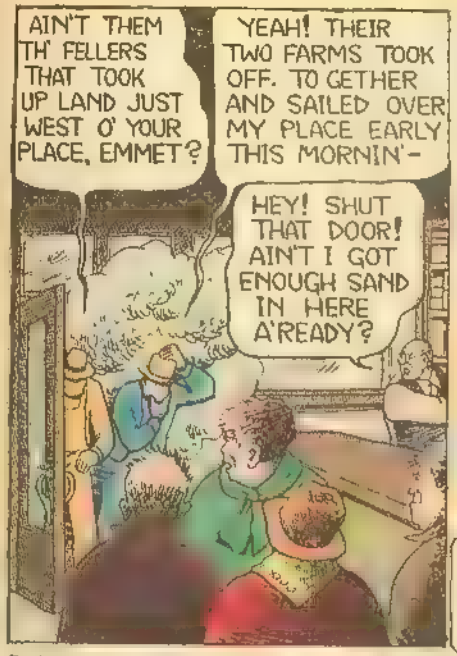

MY WELL'S MIGHTY NIGH DRY----
DURN FUNNY LOOKIN' FER RAIN CLOUDS-
WHY, FELLERS! THAT'S--- THAT'S DUST!

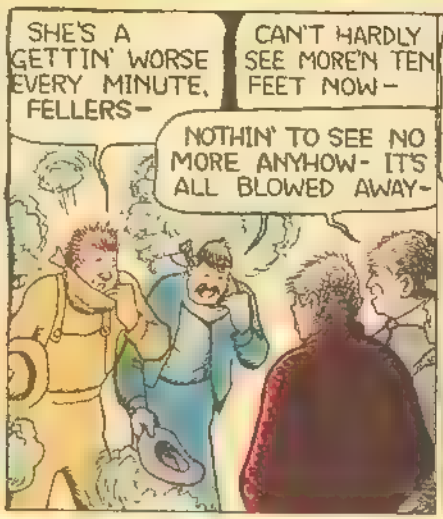
WHY, IT SHORE IS- I CAN TASTE IT A'READY--- GRITTY LIKE-
TAIN'T VERY BAD YET-
BAD ENOUGH- LOOK- YOU CAINT SEE TH' HILLS NO MORE-

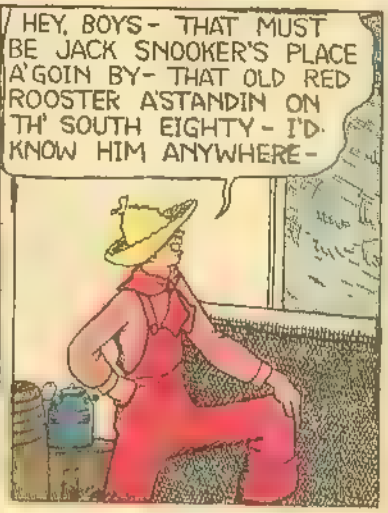

MAW! MAW! LOOK! KINDA FUNNY- LIKE A FOG- IT'S JUST GOT TO TH' TOWN-
DUST! COME INSIDE, JOE, BEFORE IT GETS HERE- OH, THOSE POOR, DELUDED PEOPLE!

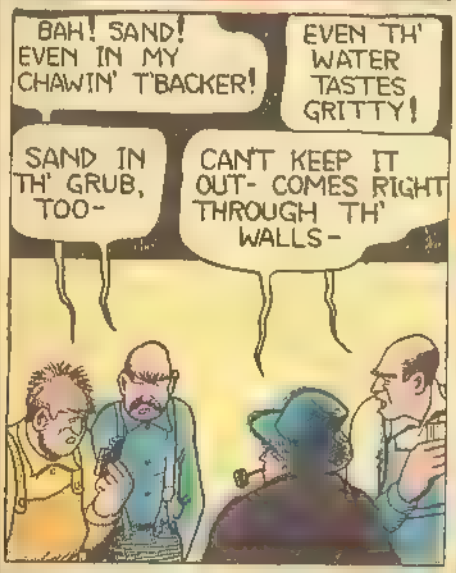

UTAH WAS SAYIN' THEY DESERVE ALL TH' BAD LUCK THEY CAN GET-
THEY'LL LOSE EVERYTHING- UTAH IS BITTER, BUT NOT EVEN HE COULD WISH ANYONE SUCH A CALAMITY-

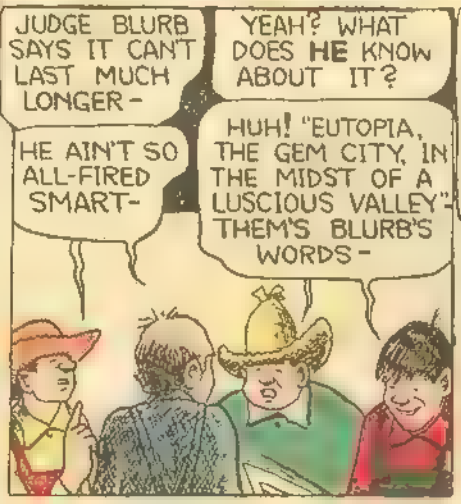
LITTLE JOE

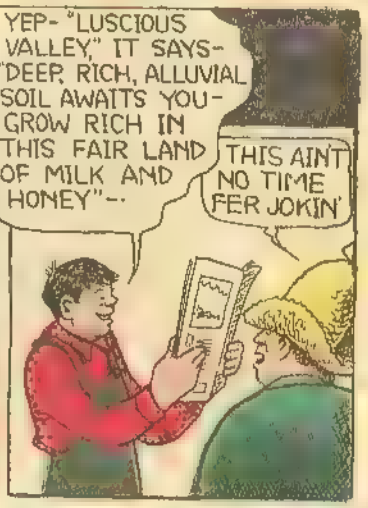

AIN'T THEM TH' FELLERS THAT TOOK UP LAND JUST WEST O' YOUR PLACE, EMMET?
YEAH! THEIR TWO FARMS TOOK OFF. TO GETHER AND SAILED OVER MY PLACE EARLY THIS MORNIN'-
HEY! SHUT THAT DOOR! AIN'T I GOT ENOUGH SAND IN HERE A'READY?

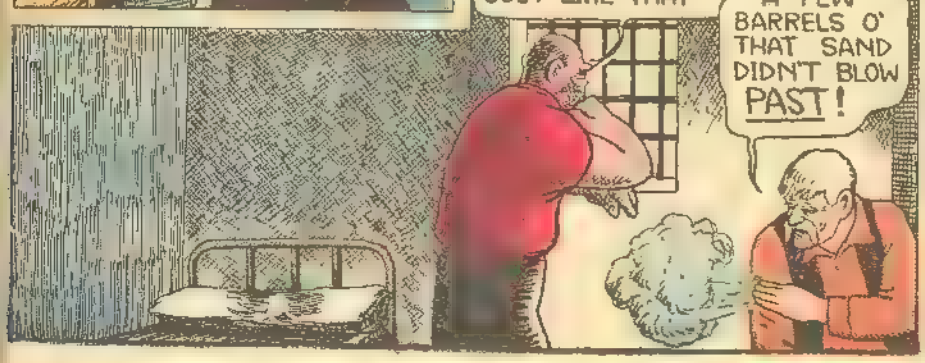

SHE'S A GETTIN' WORSE EVERY MINUTE, FELLERS-
CAN'T HARDLY SEE MORE'N TEN FEET NOW-
NOTHIN' TO SEE NO MORE ANYHOW- IT'S ALL BLOWED AWAY-

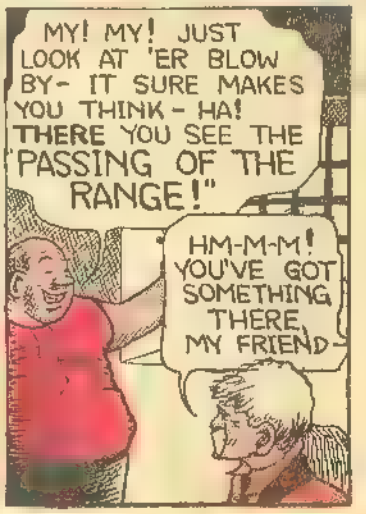

HEY, BOYS- THAT MUST BE JACK SNOOKER'S PLACE A'GOIN BY- THAT OLD RED ROOSTER A'STANDIN ON TH' SOUTH EIGHTY- I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE-


BAH! SAND! EVEN IN MY CHAWIN' T'BACKER!
EVEN TH' WATER TASTES GRITTY!
SAND IN TH' GRUB, TOO-
CAN'T KEEP IT OUT- COMES RIGHT THROUGH TH' WALLS-


JUDGE BLURB SAYS IT CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER-
YEAH? WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT IT?
HE AIN'T SO ALL-FIRED SMART-
HUH! "EUTOPIA, THE GEM CITY, IN THE MIDST OF A LUSCIOUS VALLEY"- THEM'S BLURB'S WORDS-


YEP- "LUSCIOUS VALLEY," IT SAYS- "DEEP, RICH, ALLUVIAL SOIL AWAITS YOU- GROW RICH IN THIS FAIR LAND OF MILK AND HONEY"-.
THIS AIN'T NO TIME FER JOKIN'


AH- ONE WOULDN'T BELIEVE THERE COULD BE SO MUCH DIRT WEST O' HERE- FOR A WEEK NOW IT'S BEEN BLOWIN' PAST, JUST LIKE THAT-
WA-A-AL, A FEW BARRELS O' THAT SAND DIDN'T BLOW PAST!

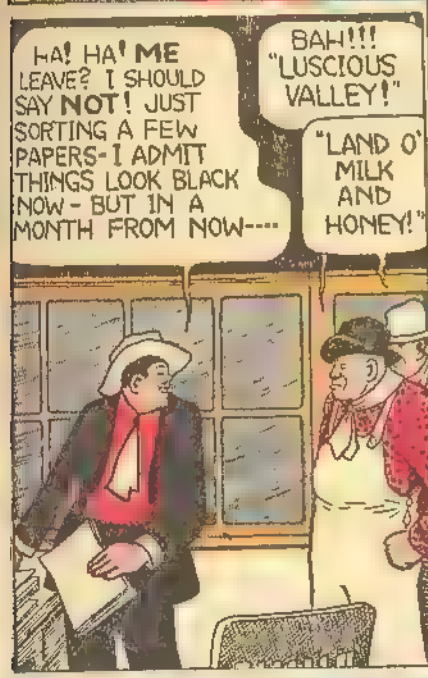

MY! MY! JUST LOOK AT 'ER BLOW BY- IT SURE MAKES YOU THINK - HA! THERE YOU SEE THE "PASSING OF THE RANGE!"
HM-M-M! YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE, MY FRIEND-

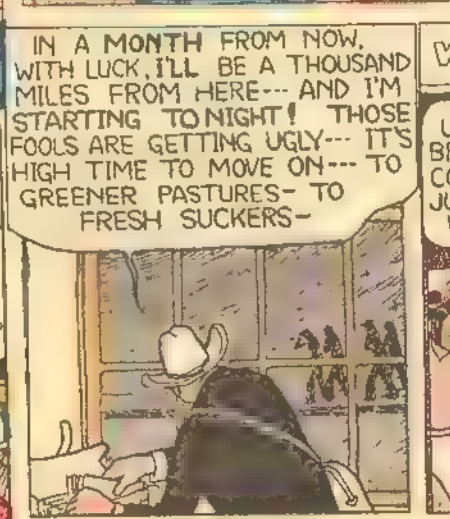
LITTLE JOE

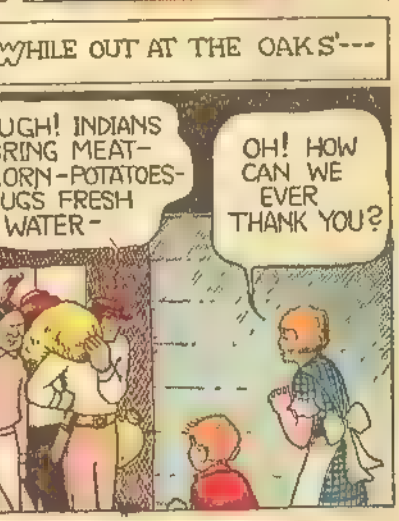
SAND'S CLEAR UP TO TH' EAVES ON TH' WIND'ARD SIDE O' MY HOUSE-
'HUH! MY BARN'S HALF COVERED-
MY LAST HOSS DIED LAST NIGHT-
IT'S GIT'TIN' WORSE - IF ANYTHING-
IT CAIN'T GIT NO WORSE-

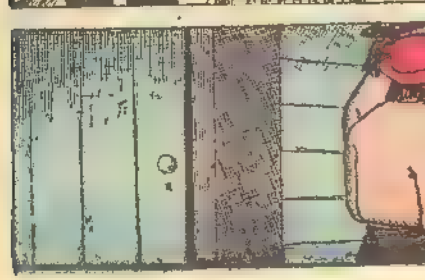
"LUSCIOUS VALLEY! LAND O' MILK AND HONEY"- AIN'T THAT WHAT BLURB ADVERTISED?
CAN'T BLAME HIM, HE SAYS-
HE TOOK OUR MONEY!

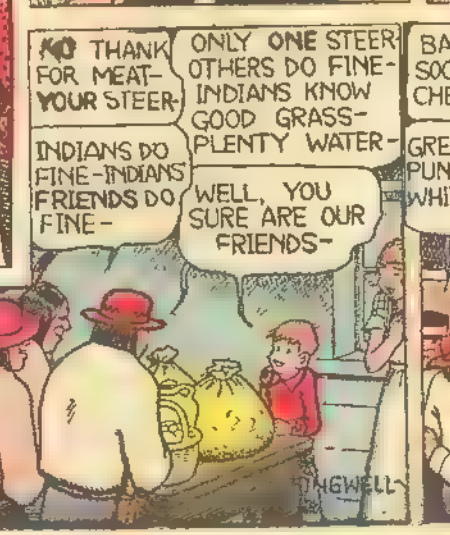
WELL, IT WAS OUR FAULT, TOO, I RECKON, FER LISTENIN' TO HIM-
WA-AL, I'M GOIN' TO HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH HIM- ANY YOU BOYS COMIN' ALONG?

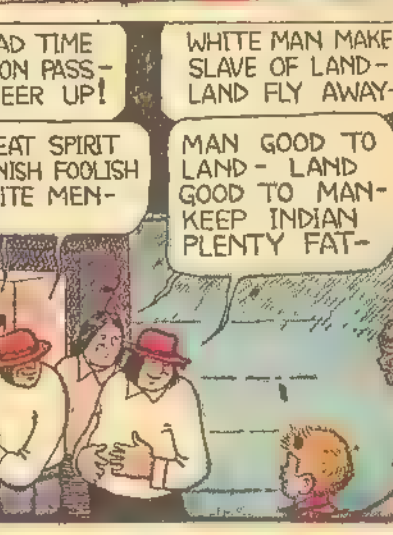

HA! HA! ME LEAVE? I SHOULD SAY NOT! JUST SORTING A FEW PAPERS- I ADMIT THINGS LOOK BLACK NOW - BUT IN A MONTH FROM NOW----
BAH!!! "LUSCIOUS VALLEY!"
"LAND O' MILK AND HONEY!"


IN A MONTH FROM NOW, WITH LUCK, I'LL BE A THOUSAND MILES FROM HERE--- AND I'M STARTING TONIGHT! THOSE FOOLS ARE GETTING UGLY--- IT'S HIGH TIME TO MOVE ON--- TO GREENER PASTURES- TO FRESH SUCKERS-

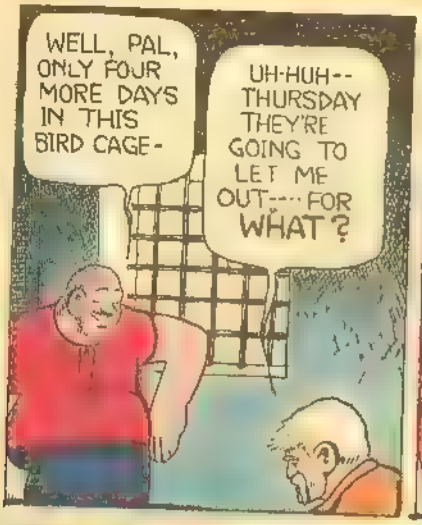

WHILE OUT AT THE OAKS'---
UGH! INDIANS BRING MEAT- CORN-POTATOES- JUGS FRESH WATER-
OH! HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU?

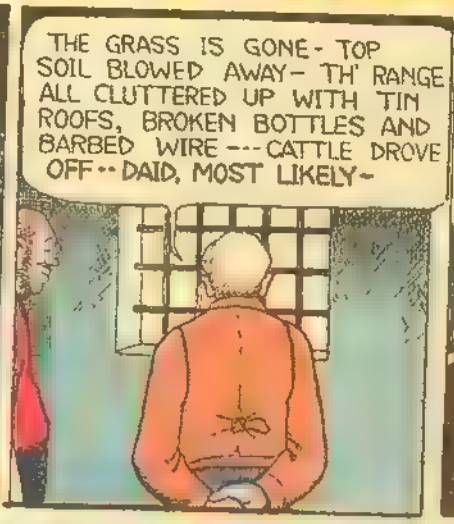

NO THANK FOR MEAT- YOUR STEER-
ONLY ONE STEER- OTHERS DO FINE- INDIANS KNOW GOOD GRASS- PLENTY WATER-
INDIANS DO FINE-INDIANS' FRIENDS DO FINE-
WELL, YOU SURE ARE OUR FRIENDS-
THGWELL

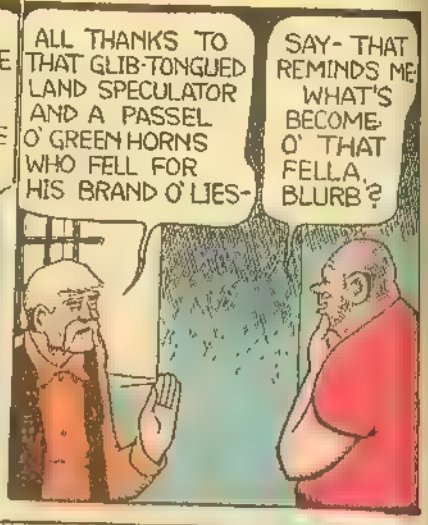

BAD TIME SOON PASS- CHEER UP!
GREAT SPIRIT PUNISH FOOLISH WHITE MEN-

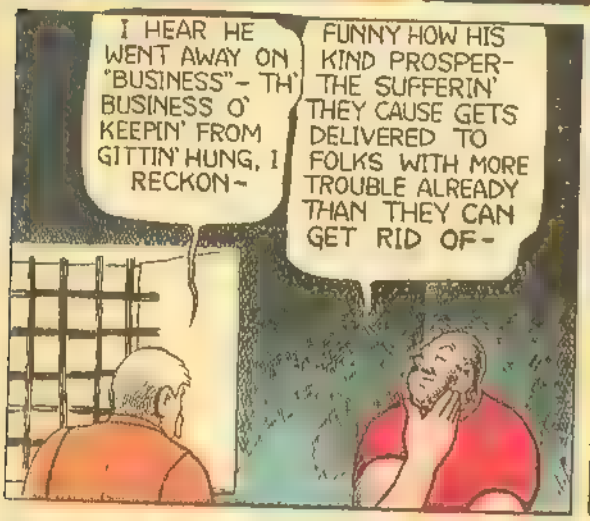

WHITE MAN MAKE SLAVE OF LAND- LAND FLY AWAY-
MAN GOOD TO LAND - LAND GOOD TO MAN- KEEP INDIAN PLENTY FAT-

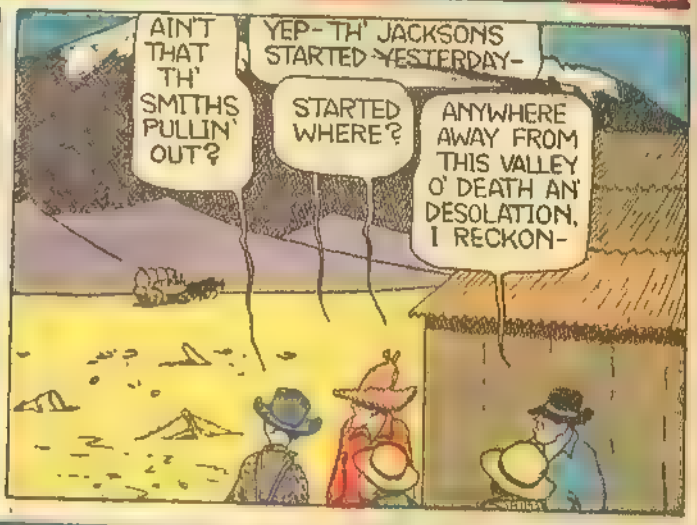
LITTLE JOE

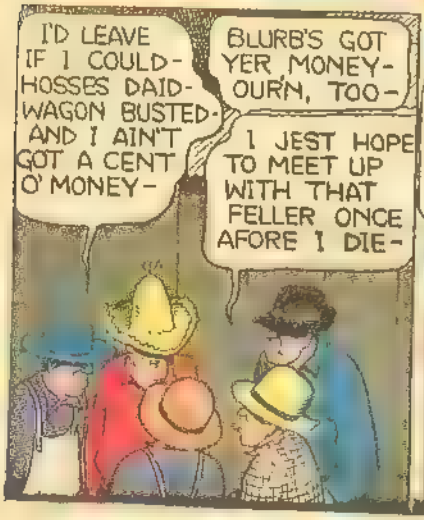

WELL, PAL, ONLY FOUR MORE DAYS IN THIS BIRD CAGE-
UH-HUH-- THURSDAY THEY'RE GOING TO LET ME OUT---- FOR WHAT?


THE GRASS IS GONE- TOP SOIL BLOWED AWAY- TH' RANGE ALL CLUTTERED UP WITH TIN ROOFS, BROKEN BOTTLES AND BARBED WIRE --- CATTLE DROVE OFF -- DAID, MOST LIKELY-

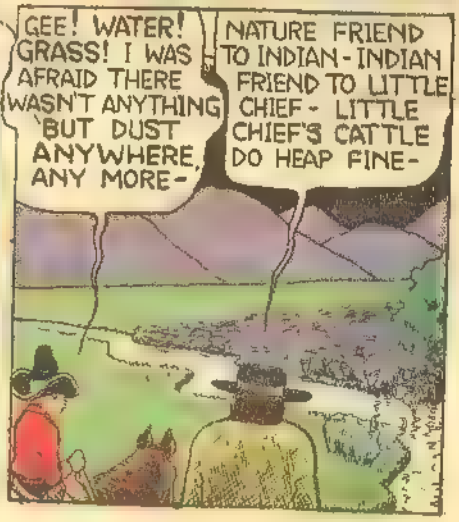

ALL THANKS TO THAT GLIB-TONGUED LAND SPECULATOR AND A PASSEL O' GREEN HORNS WHO FELL FOR HIS BRAND O' LIES-
SAY- THAT REMINDS ME WHAT'S BECOME O' THAT FELLA, BLURB?


I HEAR HE WENT AWAY ON "BUSINESS"- TH' BUSINESS O' KEEPIN' FROM GITTIN' HUNG, I RECKON-
FUNNY HOW HIS KIND PROSPER- THE SUFFERIN' THEY CAUSE GETS DELIVERED TO FOLKS WITH MORE TROUBLE ALREADY THAN THEY CAN GET RID OF-

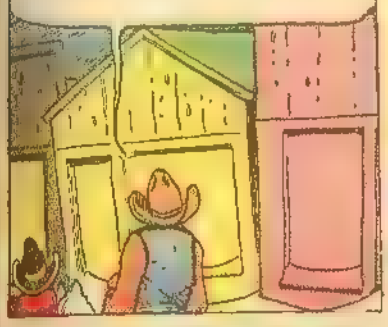

AIN'T THAT TH' SMITHS PULLIN' OUT?
YEP- TH' JACKSONS STARTED YESTERDAY-
STARTED WHERE?
ANYWHERE AWAY FROM THIS VALLEY O' DEATH AN' DESOLATION, I RECKON-


I'D LEAVE IF I COULD- HOSSES DAID- WAGON BUSTED- AND I AIN'T GOT A CENT O' MONEY-
BLURB'S GOT YER MONEY- OURN, TOO-
I JEST HOPE TO MEET UP WITH THAT FELLER ONCE AFORE I DIE-

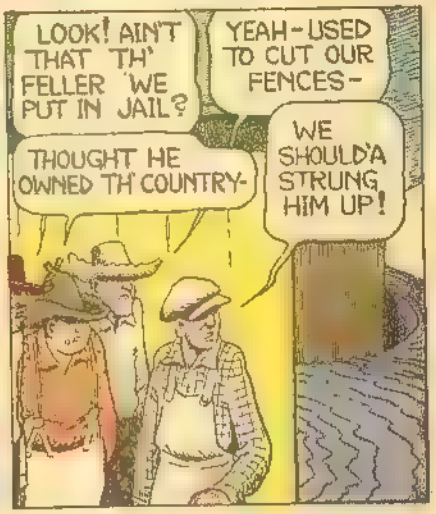
HOW! JUST RODE UP TO SEE INDIAN FRIENDS-
HOW, LITTLE CHIEF!

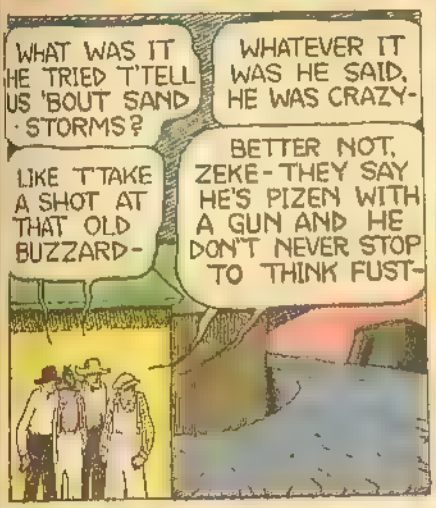

GEE! WATER! GRASS! I WAS AFRAID THERE WASN'T ANYTHING BUT DUST ANYWHERE, ANY MORE-
NATURE FRIEND TO INDIAN - INDIAN FRIEND TO LITTLE CHIEF - LITTLE CHIEF'S CATTLE DO HEAP FINE-

LITTLE JOE

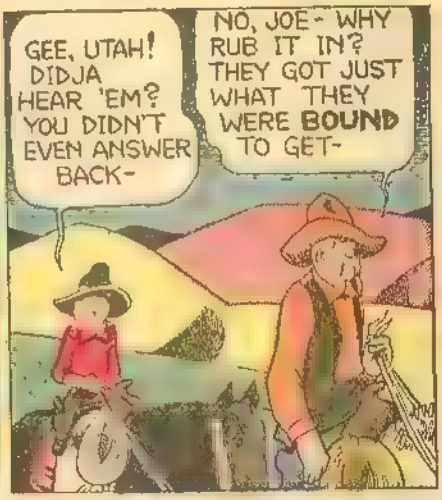

EUTOPEY, EH? TH' PULSING HEART OF A LUSCIOUS VALLEY, EH? SHORE PURTY WORDS! I TOLD 'EM WHAT'D HAPPEN EFFEN THEY PLOWED TH' RANGE - I TRIED TO SAVE 'EM---TO SAVE US ALL---

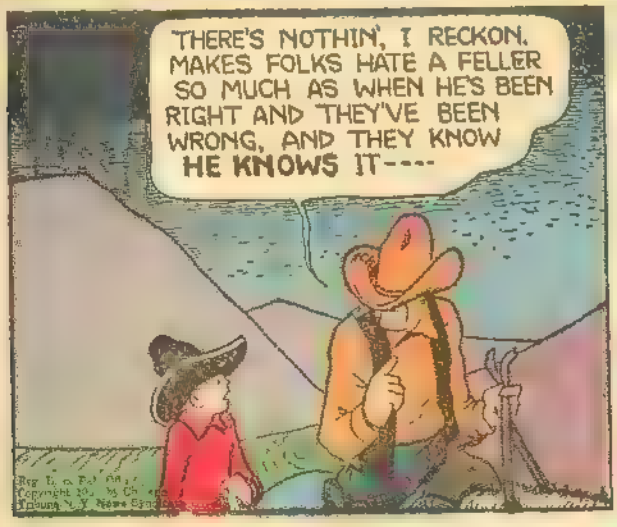
WHAT HAPPENED? THEY LISTENED POP-EYED TO BLURB - CALLED ME AN OLD FOSSIL STANDIN' IN TH' ROAD O' PROGRESS - HEAVED ME INTO TH' CALABOOSE FER SIXTY DAYS---

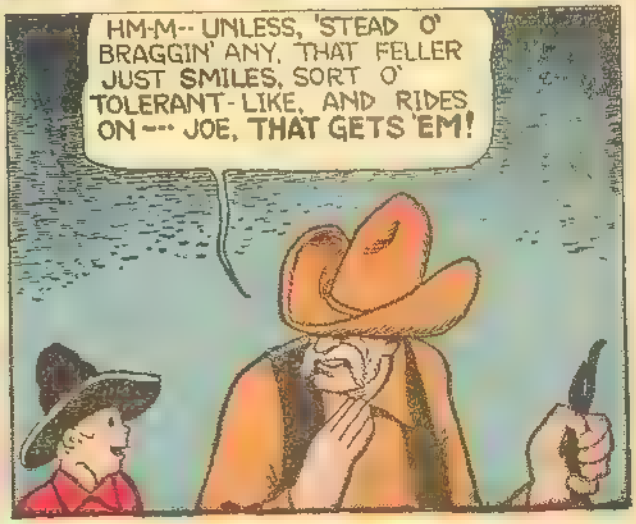

LOOK! AIN'T THAT TH' FELLER 'WE PUT IN JAIL?
YEAH - USED TO CUT OUR FENCES -
THOUGHT HE OWNED TH' COUNTRY -
WE SHOULD'A STRUNG HIM UP!


WHAT WAS IT HE TRIED T'TELL US 'BOUT SAND STORMS?
WHATEVER IT WAS HE SAID, HE WAS CRAZY -
LIKE T'TAKE A SHOT AT THAT OLD BUZZARD -
BETTER NOT, ZEKE - THEY SAY HE'S PIZEN WITH A GUN AND HE DON'T NEVER STOP TO THINK FUST -

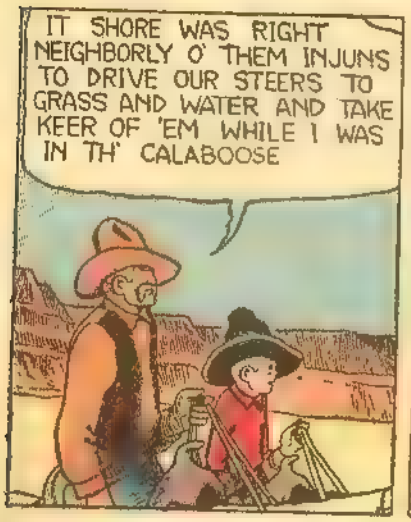
JAIL BIRD!
WHERE'S HIS STRIPES?
HE OUGHTA HAVE T'WEAR A NUMBER -
JAIL'S TOO GOOD FER HIS KIND!

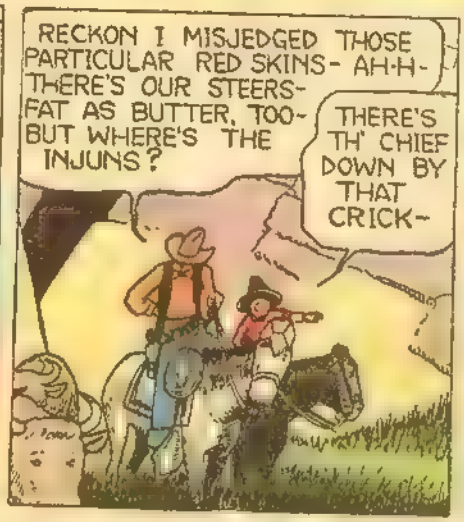

GEE, UTAH! DIDJA HEAR 'EM? YOU DIDN'T EVEN ANSWER BACK -
NO, JOE - WHY RUB IT IN? THEY GOT JUST WHAT THEY WERE **BOUND** TO GET -

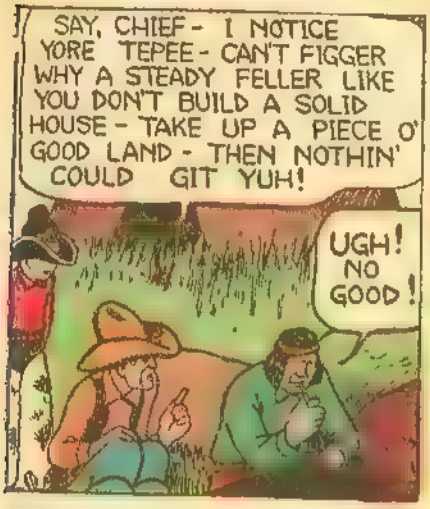

THERE'S NOTHIN', I RECKON, MAKES FOLKS HATE A FELLER SO MUCH AS WHEN HE'S BEEN RIGHT AND THEY'VE BEEN WRONG, AND THEY KNOW **HE KNOWS** IT----

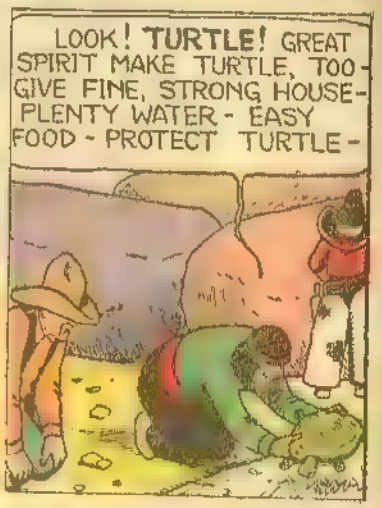

HM-M-- UNLESS, 'STEAD O' BRAGGIN' ANY, THAT FELLER JUST **SMILES**, SORT O' TOLERANT - LIKE, AND RIDES ON --- JOE, **THAT GETS 'EM!**

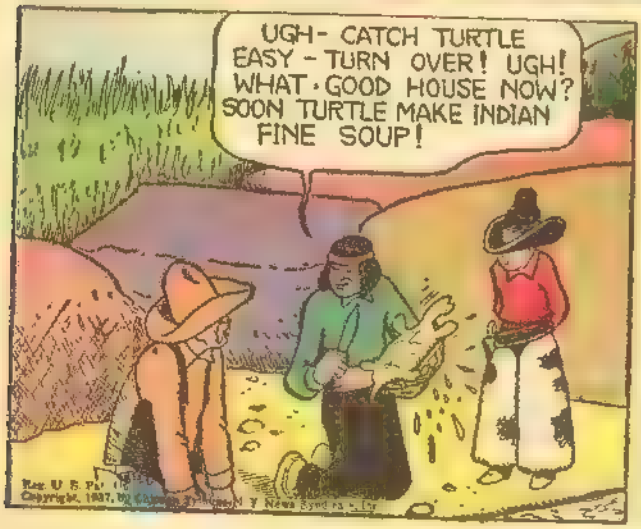
LITTLE JOE











Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.
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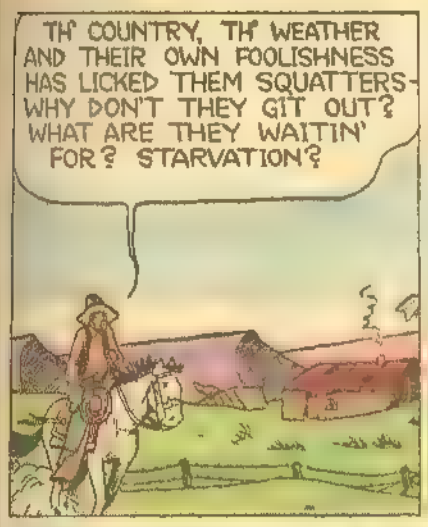
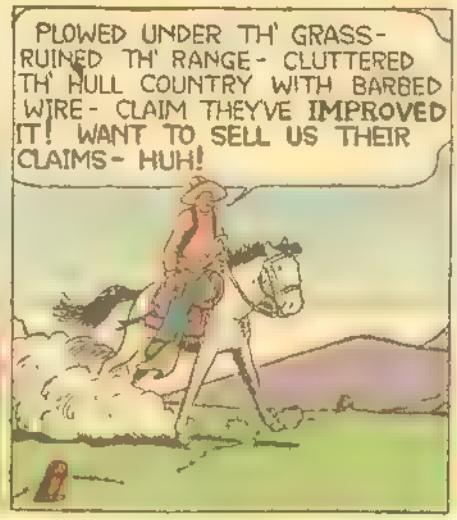
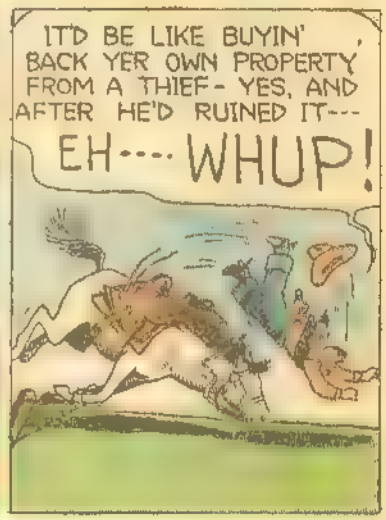
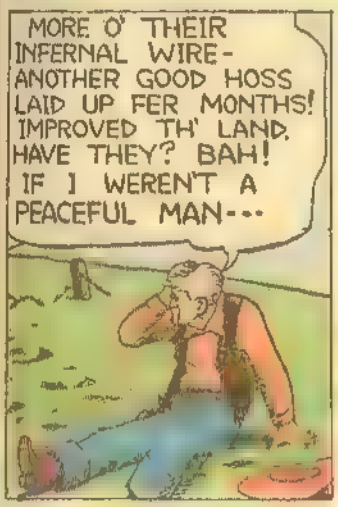
LITTLE JOE

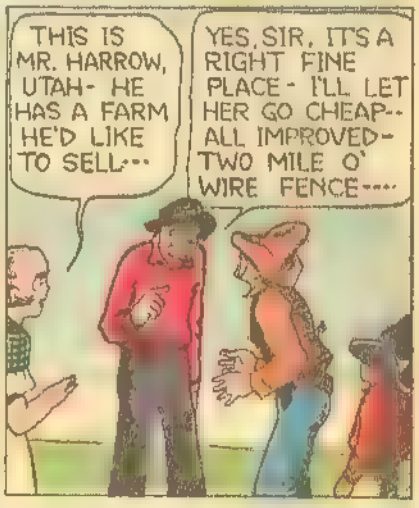

TH' COUNTRY, TH' WEATHER AND THEIR OWN FOOLISHNESS HAS LICKED THEM SQUATTERS- WHY DON'T THEY GIT OUT? WHAT ARE THEY WAITIN' FOR? STARVATION?


PLOWED UNDER TH' GRASS- RUINED TH' RANGE- CLUTTERED TH' HULL COUNTRY WITH BARBED WIRE- CLAIM THEY'VE IMPROVED IT! WANT TO SELL US THEIR CLAIMS- HUH!

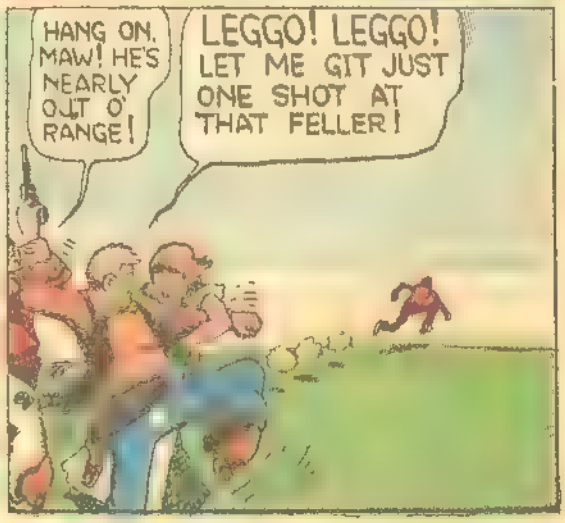

IT'D BE LIKE BUYIN' BACK YER OWN PROPERTY FROM A THIEF- YES, AND AFTER HE'D RUINED IT---
EH---- WHUP!


MORE O' THEIR INFERNAL WIRE- ANOTHER GOOD HOSS LAID UP FER MONTHS! IMPROVED TH' LAND, HAVE THEY? BAH! IF I WEREN'T A PEACEFUL MAN---

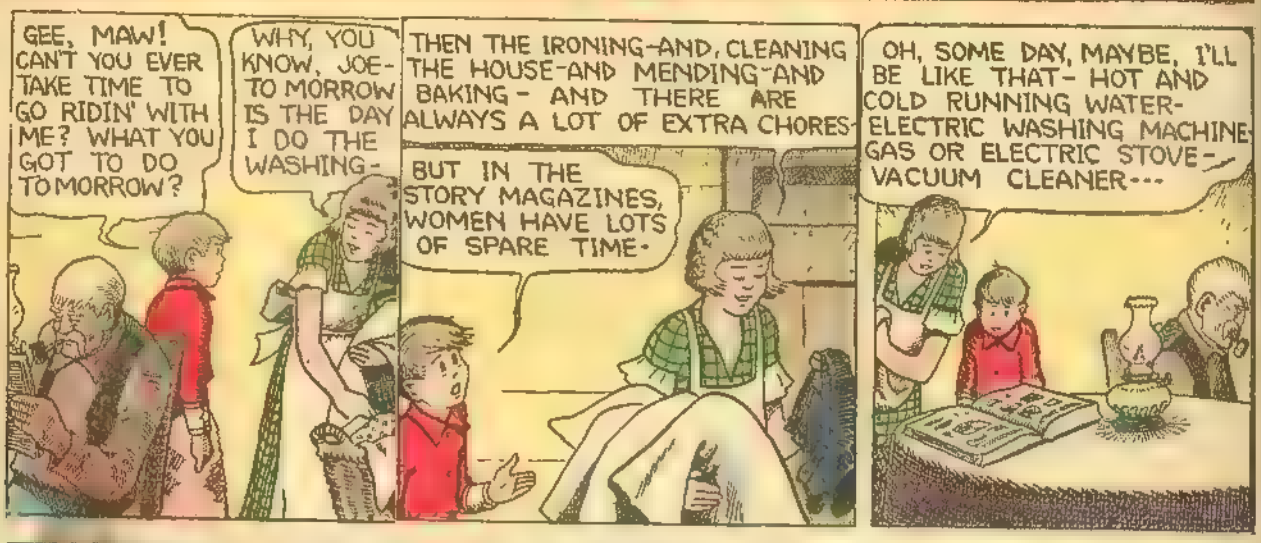
WELL, UTAH HANDLES ALL BUSINESS MATTERS- YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE UP YOUR PROPOSITION WITH HIM-- AH- HERE HE COMES NOW-
THAT'S FUNNY- UTAH'S WALKIN'-

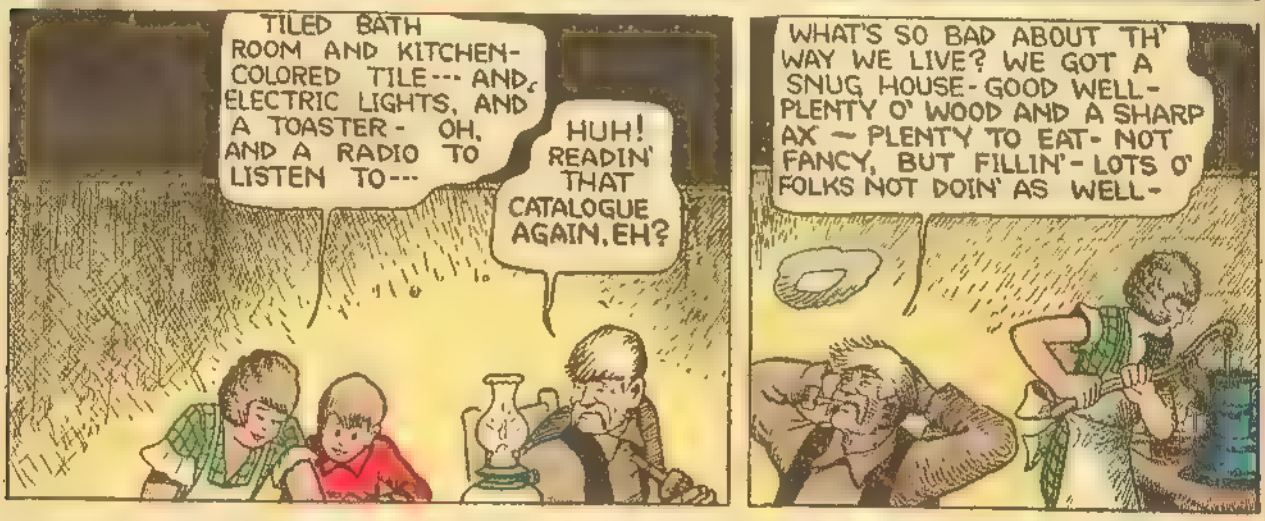

THIS IS MR. HARROW, UTAH- HE HAS A FARM HE'D LIKE TO SELL---
YES, SIR, IT'S A RIGHT FINE PLACE- I'LL LET HER GO CHEAP-- ALL IMPROVED- TWO MILE O' WIRE FENCE----

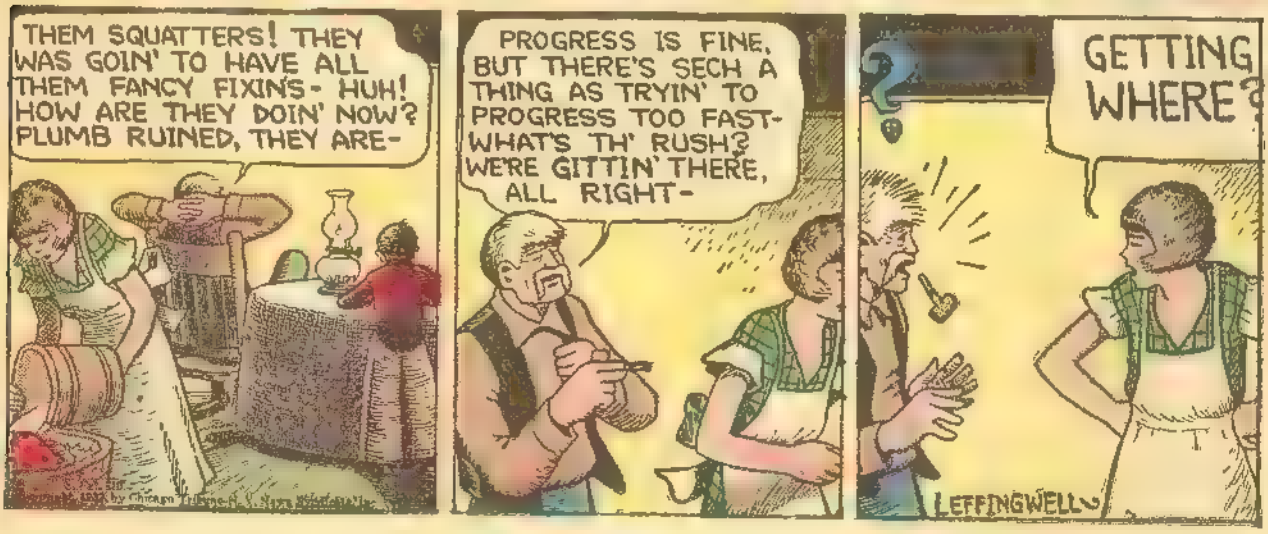
IMPROVED? FENCE, EH? WHY--- YOU----!
GRAB HIM, MAW!

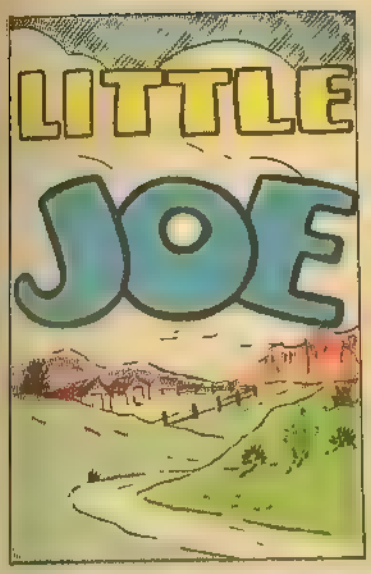

HANG ON, MAW! HE'S NEARLY OUT O' RANGE!
LEGGO! LEGGO! LET ME GIT JUST ONE SHOT AT THAT FELLER!

LITTLE JOE

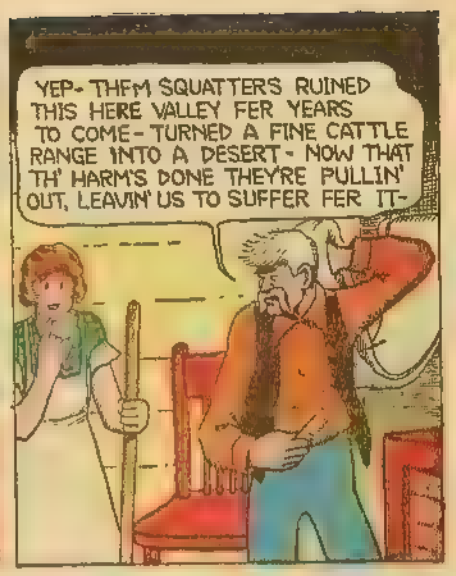

GEE, MAW! CAN'T YOU EVER TAKE TIME TO GO RIDIN' WITH ME? WHAT YOU GOT TO DO TOMORROW?
WHY, YOU KNOW, JOE- TOMORROW IS THE DAY I DO THE WASHING-
THEN THE IRONING-AND, CLEANING THE HOUSE-AND MENDING-AND BAKING - AND THERE ARE ALWAYS A LOT OF EXTRA CHORES-
BUT IN THE STORY MAGAZINES, WOMEN HAVE LOTS OF SPARE TIME-
OH, SOME DAY, MAYBE, I'LL BE LIKE THAT- HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER- ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINE- GAS OR ELECTRIC STOVE- VACUUM CLEANER---

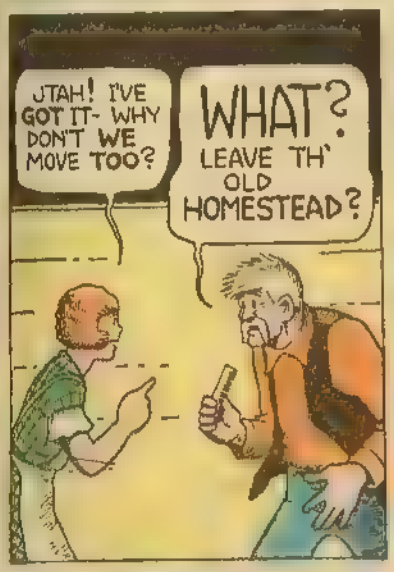

TILED BATH ROOM AND KITCHEN- COLORED TILE--- AND, ELECTRIC LIGHTS, AND A TOASTER - OH, AND A RADIO TO LISTEN TO---
HUH! READIN' THAT CATALOGUE AGAIN, EH?
WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT TH' WAY WE LIVE? WE GOT A SNUG HOUSE- GOOD WELL- PLENTY O' WOOD AND A SHARP AX — PLENTY TO EAT- NOT FANCY, BUT FILLIN'- LOTS O' FOLKS NOT DOIN' AS WELL-


THEM SQUATTERS! THEY WAS GOIN' TO HAVE ALL THEM FANCY FIXIN'S- HUH! HOW ARE THEY DOIN' NOW? PLUMB RUINED, THEY ARE-
PROGRESS IS FINE, BUT THERE'S SECH A THING AS TRYIN' TO PROGRESS TOO FAST- WHAT'S TH' RUSH? WE'RE GITTIN' THERE, ALL RIGHT-
GETTING WHERE?
LEFFINGWELL


LITTLE
JOE

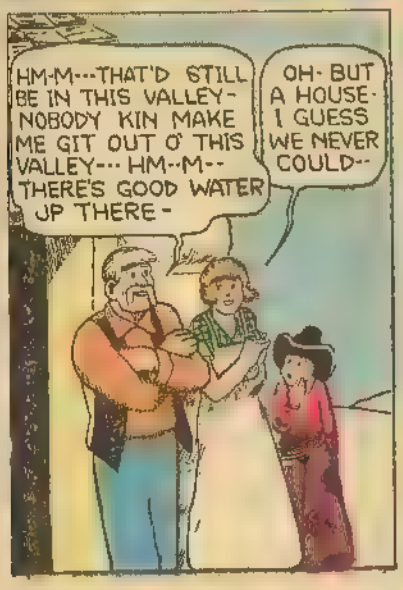
OH, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THE SAND OUT OF THIS HOUSE, IF I WORK AT IT FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS-
EVEN EFFEN YOU DID, TH' NEXT GOOD BLOW'D DIRTY IT UP AGIN, BAD AS EVER-

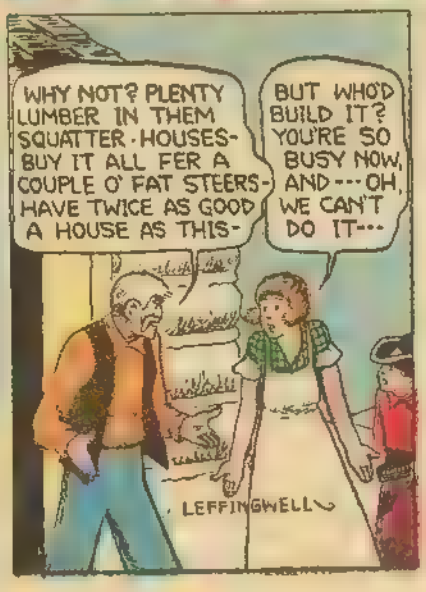

YEP- THEM SQUATTERS RUINED THIS HERE VALLEY FER YEARS TO COME- TURNED A FINE CATTLE RANGE INTO A DESERT- NOW THAT TH' HARM'S DONE THEY'RE PULLIN' OUT, LEAVIN' US TO SUFFER FER IT-

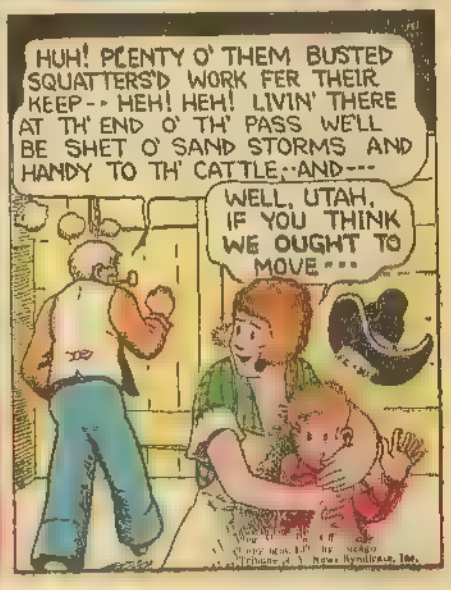

UTAH! I'VE GOT IT- WHY DON'T WE MOVE TOO?
WHAT? LEAVE TH' OLD HOMESTEAD?

WHY, I BEEN RIGHT HERE FER FORTY YEAR AFORE YOU WAS BORN- --NO DANG PASSEL O' SQUATTERS OR DUST STORMS OR---
NO! NO! UTAH! LISTEN- NO ONE IS DRIVING US OUT- BUT THINK, FOR A MINUTE-

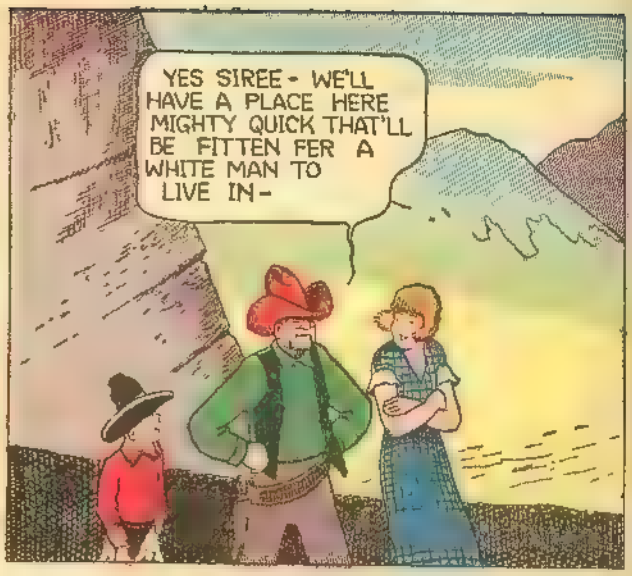
THE CATTLE- THEY CAN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE - BUT JUST THROUGH EYE-LASH PASS THEY ARE DOING FINE- AND RIGHT AT THIS END OF EYE-LASH PASS WOULD BE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE FOR A HOME-


HM-M---THAT'D STILL BE IN THIS VALLEY- NOBODY KIN MAKE ME GIT OUT O' THIS VALLEY--- HM--M-- THERE'S GOOD WATER UP THERE-
OH- BUT A HOUSE- I GUESS WE NEVER COULD--


WHY NOT? PLENTY LUMBER IN THEM SQUATTER-HOUSES- BUY IT ALL FER A COUPLE O' FAT STEERS- HAVE TWICE AS GOOD A HOUSE AS THIS-
BUT WHO'D BUILD IT? YOU'RE SO BUSY NOW, AND---OH, WE CAN'T DO IT---
LEFFINGWELL


HUH! PLENTY O' THEM BUSTED SQUATTERS'D WORK FER THEIR KEEP-- HEH! HEH! LIVIN' THERE AT TH' END O' TH' PASS WE'LL BE SHET O' SAND STORMS AND HANDY TO TH' CATTLE--AND---
WELL, UTAH, IF YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO MOVE---

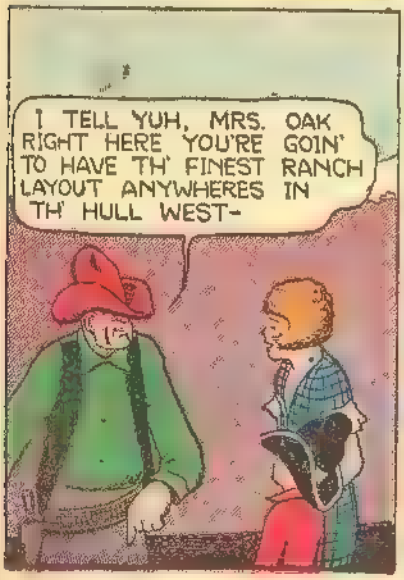
I TOLD YUH I COULD DO IT- GOT TEN GOOD MEN- THEY'RE BUSTED- GLAD TO GIT A JOB THAT'LL GIVE 'EM THEIR BOARD AND KEEP, AND MAYBE A LITTLE MORE-


YES SIREE- WE'LL HAVE A PLACE HERE MIGHTY QUICK THAT'LL BE FITTEN FER A WHITE MAN TO LIVE IN-

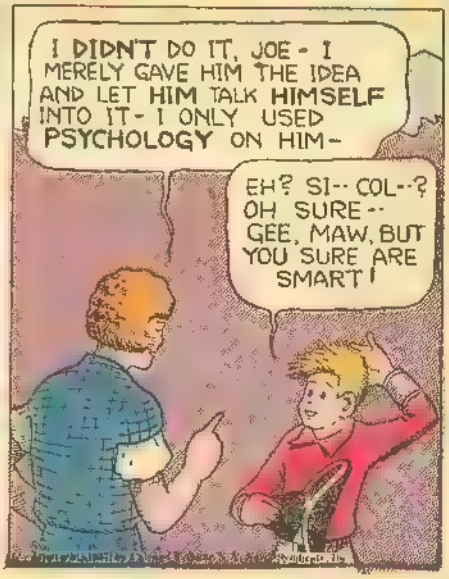
LOOK AT THAT VIEW- I NEVER WAS MUCH OF A FELLER TO GO LOCO OVER SCENERY, BUT THAT'D GIT ANYBODY!

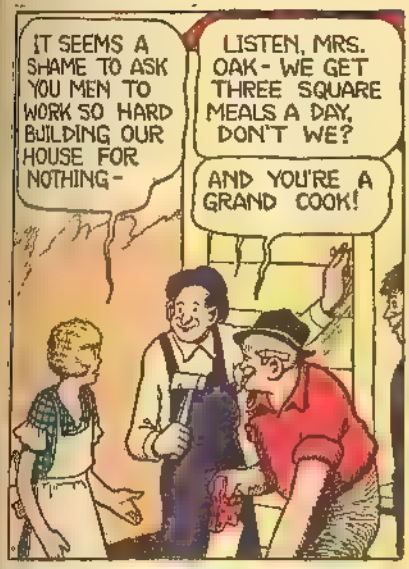
OUR CATTLE WILL BE BACK YONDER, INSIDE- AND ALL NOSEY PARTIES, SHEEP HERDERS AND SICH, WILL BE OUTSIDE-

AND WE'LL BE UP HERE OUT O' TH' DUST- AND RIGHT HERE AT TH' END O' EYELASH PASS, WE'LL BE LIKE TH' CORK IN A BOTTLE-


I TELL YUH, MRS. OAK RIGHT HERE YOU'RE GOIN' TO HAVE TH' FINEST RANCH LAYOUT ANYWHERES IN TH' HULL WEST-

GEE, MAW- I NEVER THOUGHT ANYBODY COULD TALK UTAH INTO MOVIN' AWAY FROM THAT OLD CABIN- HOW DID YOU DO IT?
LEFFINGWELL

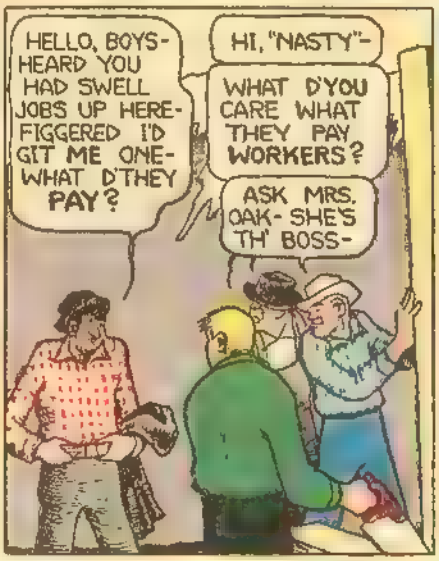

I DIDN'T DO IT, JOE- I MERELY GAVE HIM THE IDEA AND LET HIM TALK HIMSELF INTO IT- I ONLY USED PSYCHOLOGY ON HIM-
EH? SI-- COL--? OH SURE-- GEE, MAW, BUT YOU SURE ARE SMART!

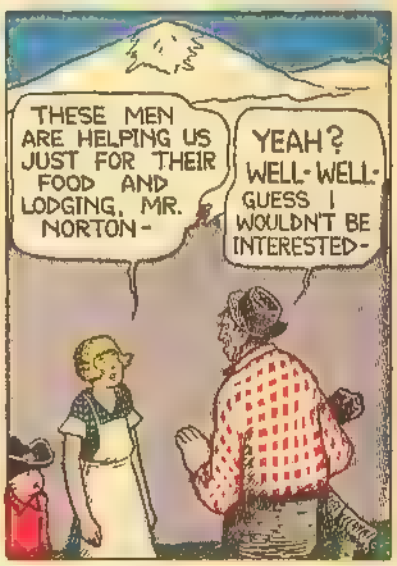

IT SEEMS A SHAME TO ASK YOU MEN TO WORK SO HARD BUILDING OUR HOUSE FOR NOTHING-
LISTEN, MRS. OAK- WE GET THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY, DON'T WE?
AND YOU'RE A GRAND COOK!

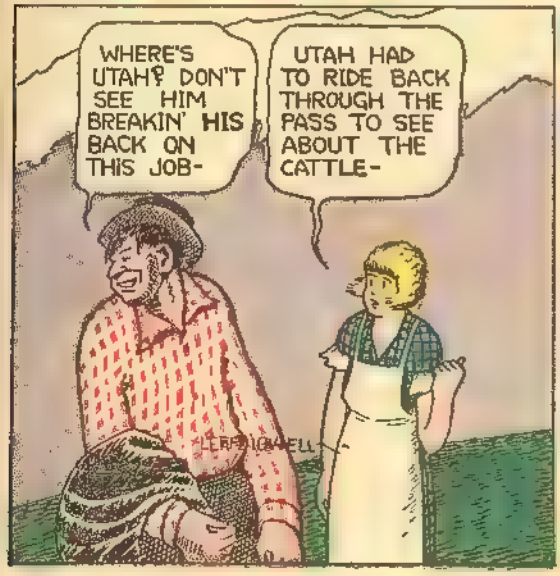
WE DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE THE JOB-
WE'RE SATISFIED LADY-
I DON'T GUESS YOU'VE GOT MUCH MORE CASH MONEY THAN WE HAVE, MRS. OAK-

WITH THE NEW RANCH GOING SO WELL, WE'LL SOON HAVE REAL JOBS TO OFFER THESE MEN, WITH GOOD WAGES- I WANT TO SURPRISE THEM WITH THE NEWS WHEN THE HOUSE IS DONE-

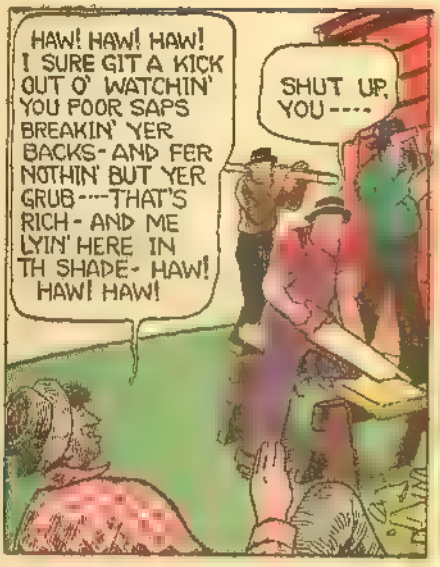
WHO'S THAT COMING UP THE TRAIL?
AIN'T THAT "NASTY" NORTON?
THAT GUY'S A PEST- WHAT DOES HE WANT HERE?


HELLO, BOYS- HEARD YOU HAD SWELL JOBS UP HERE- FIGGERED I'D GIT ME ONE- WHAT D'THEY PAY?
HI, "NASTY"-
WHAT D'YOU CARE WHAT THEY PAY WORKERS?
ASK MRS. OAK- SHE'S TH' BOSS-

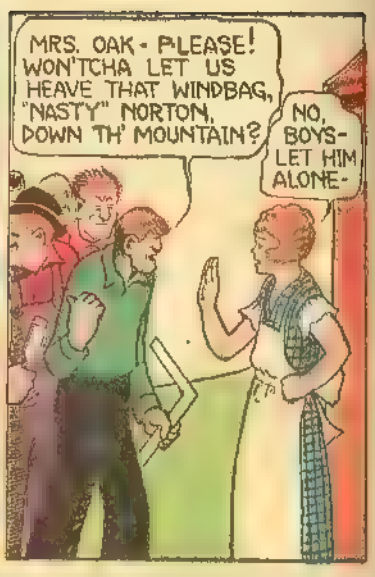

THESE MEN ARE HELPING US JUST FOR THEIR FOOD AND LODGING, MR. NORTON-
YEAH? WELL- WELL- GUESS I WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED-

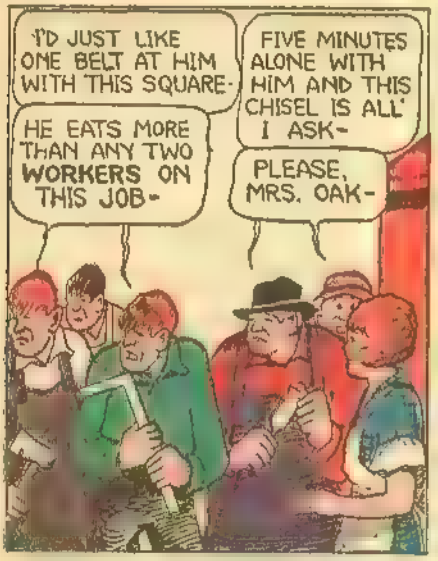

WHERE'S UTAH? DON'T SEE HIM BREAKIN' HIS BACK ON THIS JOB-
UTAH HAD TO RIDE BACK THROUGH THE PASS TO SEE ABOUT THE CATTLE-

YEAH? TCH! TCH! SO SORRY I MISSED HIM- BUT SINCE YOU'RE SO GENEROUS, BY FEEDIN' MEN TO WORK FOR YUH, GUESS I'LL JUST SAMPLE SOME O' THAT GRUB-
HELP YOURSELF- I'VE NEVER YET TURNED AWAY A TRAMP!

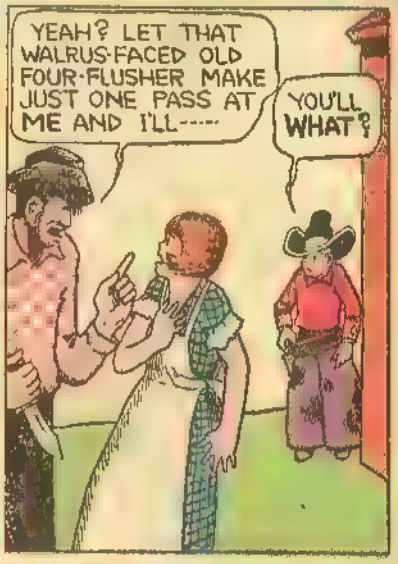

HAW! HAW! HAW! I SURE GIT A KICK OUT O' WATCHIN' YOU POOR SAPS BREAKIN' YER BACKS - AND FER NOTHIN' BUT YER GRUB ---- THAT'S RICH - AND ME LYIN' HERE IN TH SHADE - HAW! HAW! HAW!
SHUT UP, YOU ----

YEAH? IT'S A FREE COUNTRY - I GOT A RIGHT TO TALK ALL I PLEASE - I DON'T SEE NONE O' YOU SUCKERS STOPPIN' ME -


MRS. OAK - PLEASE! WON'TCHA LET US HEAVE THAT WINDBAG, "NASTY" NORTON, DOWN TH' MOUNTAIN?
NO, BOYS - LET HIM ALONE -


I'D JUST LIKE ONE BELT AT HIM WITH THIS SQUARE -
HE EATS MORE THAN ANY TWO WORKERS ON THIS JOB -
FIVE MINUTES ALONE WITH HIM AND THIS CHISEL IS ALL I ASK -
PLEASE, MRS. OAK -

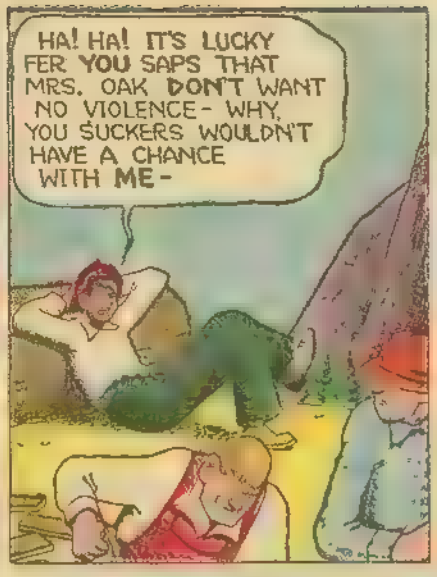
NO - HE'S HARMLESS - I ADMIT HE'S EXASPERATING, BUT I'LL NOT ALLOW ANY VIOLENCE HERE - I'M HOPING HE'LL GO BEFORE UTAH COMES HOME -
LEFFINGWELL


YEAH? LET THAT WALRUS-FACED OLD FOUR-FLUSHER MAKE JUST ONE PASS AT ME AND I'LL ----
YOU'LL WHAT?

WHY, YOU LITTLE PANTY-WAIST - PUT THAT POP-GUN O' YOURS AWAY OR I'LL TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU AND MAKE YOU EAT IT -
YEAH?

MAYBE SO, MISTER - BUT IF YOU DO YOU'LL HAVE ET TH' SIX SLUGS IN IT ON YER WAY TO GET IT -

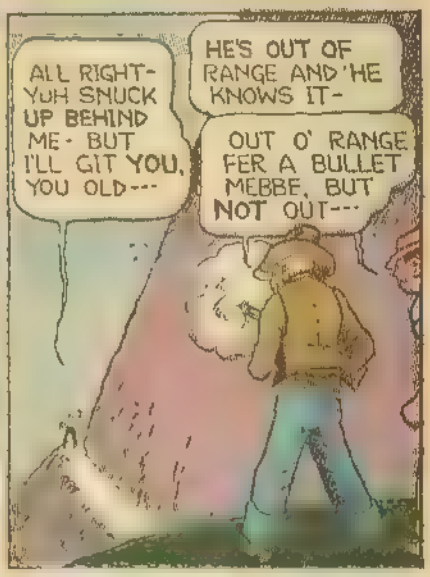
LITTLE
JOE


HA! HA! IT'S LUCKY FER YOU SAPS THAT MRS. OAK DON'T WANT NO VIOLENCE - WHY, YOU SUCKERS WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE WITH ME -

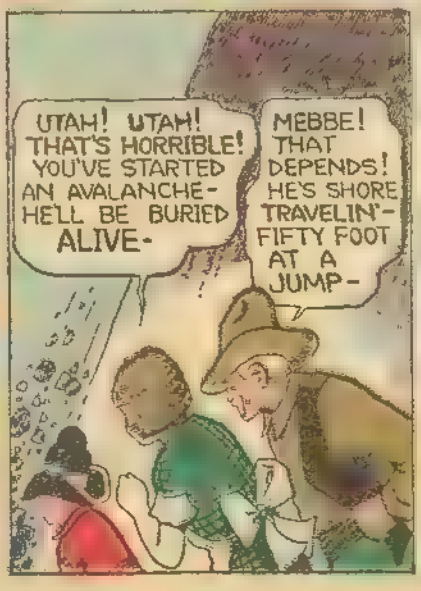
WHEN THAT OLD WIND BAG, UTAH, COMES HOME HE CAN LIKE IT OR LUMP IT - I FIGGER ON EATIN' HERE TILL I GIT READY TO MOVE --

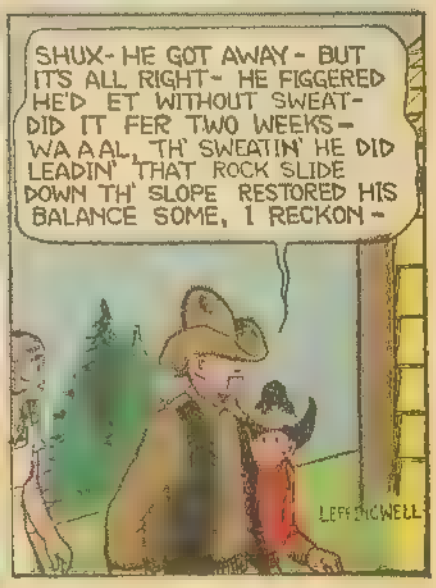
THAT'S WHAT YOU FIGGER, EH? WA-A-L, "NASTY" NORTON - YOU BETTER GIT READY TO DO THAT MOVIN' ALMOST IMMEDIATE -

WOW! I NEVER SAW HIM COMING -
NEITHER DID "NASTY" NORTON -
LOOK AT HIM LIGHT OUT -
HAW! HAW! WHAT WAS ALL THEM THINGS YOU WAS GOIN' TO DO TO UTAH, 'NASTY?


ALL RIGHT - YUH SNUCK UP BEHIND ME - BUT I'LL GIT YOU, YOU OLD ---
HE'S OUT OF RANGE AND 'HE KNOWS IT -
OUT O' RANGE FER A BULLET MEBBE, BUT NOT OUT ---

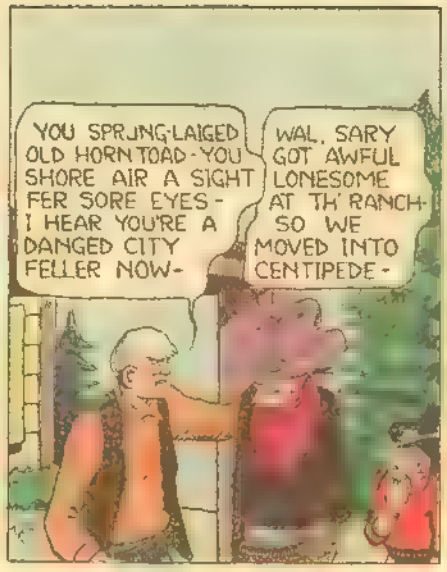
--- O' RANGE OF A MOUNTAIN, WHEN IT GITS MAD -
GREAT JEHOSIPHAT!
LOOK!

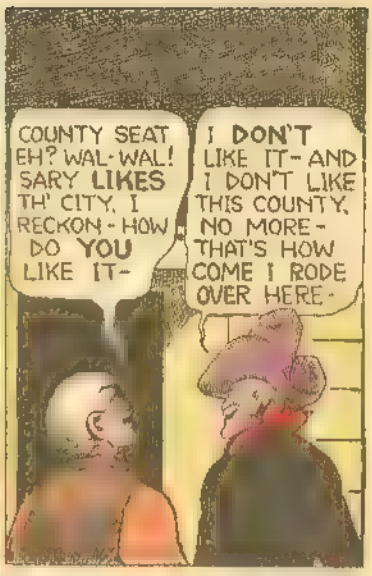

UTAH! UTAH! THAT'S HORRIBLE! YOU'VE STARTED AN AVALANCHE - HE'LL BE BURIED ALIVE -
MEBBE! THAT DEPENDS! HE'S SHORE TRAVELIN' - FIFTY FOOT AT A JUMP -

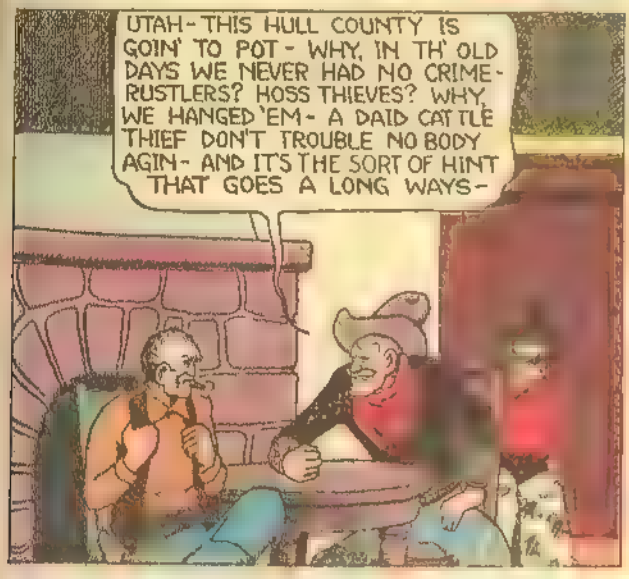

SHUX - HE GOT AWAY - BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT - HE FIGGERED HE'D ET WITHOUT SWEAT - DID IT FER TWO WEEKS - WA A AL, TH' SWEATIN' HE DID LEADIN' THAT ROCK SLIDE DOWN TH' SLOPE RESTORED HIS BALANCE SOME, I RECKON -
LEFF McWELL

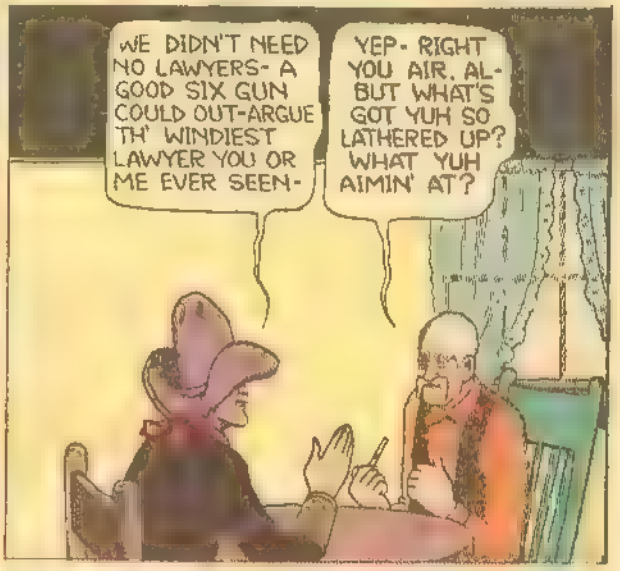
WHEE! WHAT A PARTY! WHAT A PARTY!
AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE! OH, IT'S THE HOUSE I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BUT NEVER DARED HOPE TO HAVE-
YEP- IT'S A FINE HOUSE-WARMIN', AND A FINE HOUSE - AND WE HAVE YOU FELLERS TO THANK FOR IT - EFFEN WE COULD PAY YOU, WE WOULD - BUT WE GOT NO CASH MONEY-
THAT'S O.K- WE WERE GLAD TO HELP OUT-
GOT FED FINE-- WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
SHUX, YES- FORGET IT!
AND MRS. OAK SURE IS A SWELL COOK-
BOYS, YOU EMBARRASS ME- AS A OLD CATTLE MAN, I HATED SQUATTERS - AS FARMERS 'TAKIN' UP CLAIMS, YOU MATCH-ELLY HATED ME- WA-A-AL, I RECKON WE WAS BOTH A MITE WRONG IN OUR CAL-CU-LATIONS-
YOU FELLERS RUINED TH' RANGE, BUT NOT INTENTIONAL- YOU'VE LARNED --- YES, AND I'VE LARNED - YOU FELLERS HAS GOT REAL STUFF - SO HERE'S OUR PROPOSITION-
THERE'S LAND HERE AS AIN'T BEEN TETCHED - A FARM FOR EACH OF YUH - AND WITH OUR RANCHIN' GOIN' AGIN, THERE'S A JOB FER ALL OF YUH. WITH PAY- HOW DOES THAT STRIKE YUH?
GEE! GREAT- BUT WE'RE NOT COW MEN-
WE COULDN'T EARN OUR KEEP ON A RANCH -
HUH! YOU'RE WILLIN' TO WORK- YOU'VE PROVED IT- SO YOU'RE HIRED, BOYS- FULL COW HAND WAGES-
AND IN TIME, YOU'LL HAVE YORE FARMS - GOOD ONES - YOU KNOW, FARMERS DON'T KNOW IT ALL - NEITHER DOES COW MEN - BUT TOGETHER, WE'RE PRETTY ALL-FIRED SMART, EH, BOYS?
YOU SAID IT, UTAH!

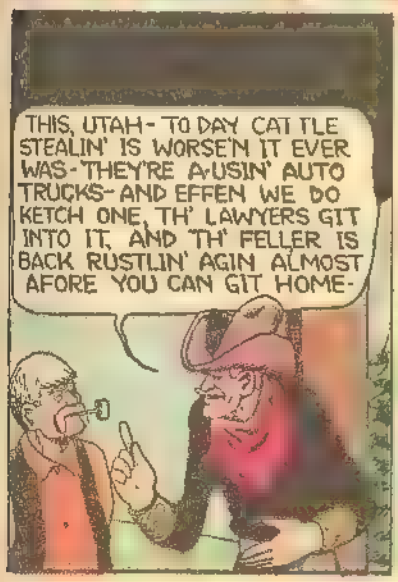
WAL, EFFEN IT AIN'T MY OLD PARD, THREE-CARD AL - GIT DOWN OFFEN THET FOUR-LAIGED HAY RACK AFORE YUH FALL OFF -
HI, UTAH - YOU SHORE GOT A RIGHT SMART PLACE HERE - REG'LAR DUDE RANCH I D'CLARE!


YOU SPRUNG-LAIGED OLD HORNTOAD - YOU SHORE AIR A SIGHT FER SORE EYES - I HEAR YOU'RE A DANGED CITY FELLER NOW -
WAL, SARY GOT AWFUL LONESOME AT TH' RANCH - SO WE MOVED INTO CENTIPEDE -

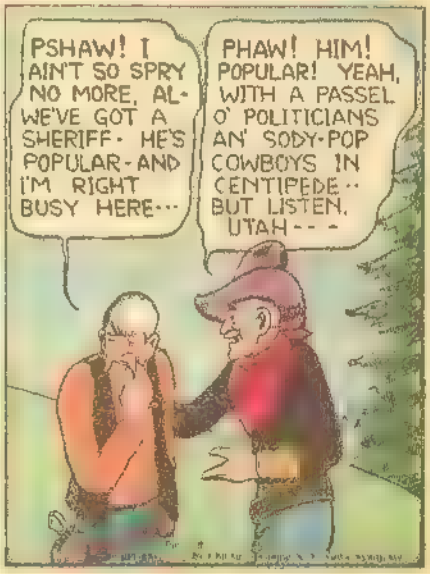

COUNTY SEAT EH? WAL - WAL! SARY LIKES TH' CITY. I RECKON - HOW DO YOU LIKE IT -
I DON'T LIKE IT - AND I DON'T LIKE THIS COUNTY, NO MORE - THAT'S HOW COME I RODE OVER HERE -


UTAH - THIS HULL COUNTY IS GOIN' TO POT - WHY, IN TH' OLD DAYS WE NEVER HAD NO CRIME - RUSTLERS? HOSS THIEVES? WHY, WE HANGED 'EM - A DAID CATTLE THIEF DON'T TROUBLE NO BODY AGIN - AND IT'S THE SORT OF HINT THAT GOES A LONG WAYS -

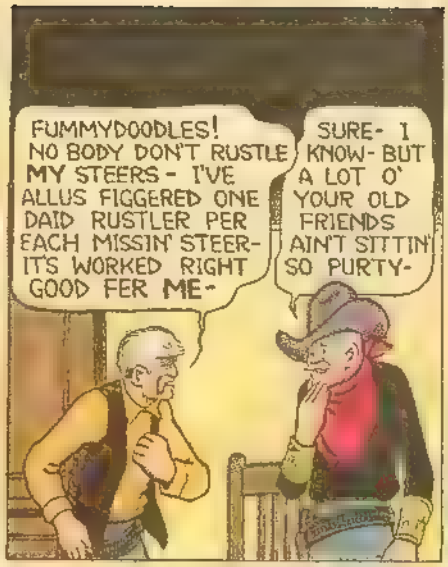

WE DIDN'T NEED NO LAWYERS - A GOOD SIX GUN COULD OUT-ARGUE TH' WINDIEST LAWYER YOU OR ME EVER SEEN -
YEP - RIGHT YOU AIR, AL - BUT WHAT'S GOT YUH SO LATHERED UP? WHAT YUH AIMIN' AT?

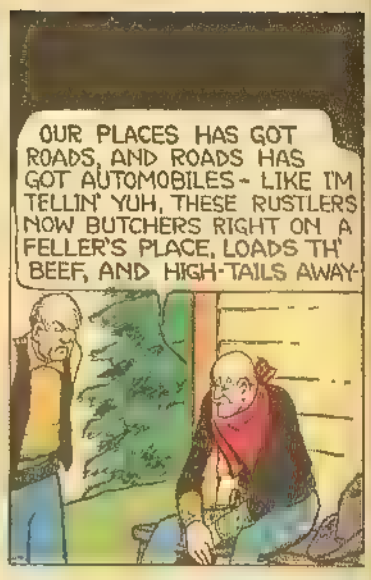

THIS, UTAH - TO DAY CATTLE STEALIN' IS WORSE'N IT EVER WAS - THEY'RE A-USIN' AUTO TRUCKS - AND EFFEN WE DO KETCH ONE, TH' LAWYERS GIT INTO IT, AND TH' FELLER IS BACK RUSTLIN' AGIN ALMOST AFORE YOU CAN GIT HOME -

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH TH' SHERIFF? WHY, I KIN RECALL - - -
THAT'S IT - THERE'S A ELECTION COMIN' AND WE OLD TIMER'S HAS PICKED YOU TO RUN - I WAS SENT UP TO ASK YUH -
LEFFINGWELL

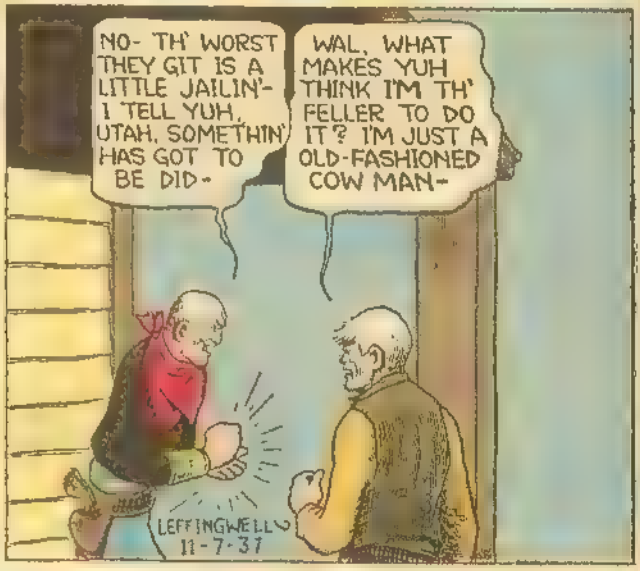

PSHAW! I AIN'T SO SPRY NO MORE, AL - WE'VE GOT A SHERIFF - HE'S POPULAR - AND I'M RIGHT BUSY HERE - - -
PHAW! HIM! POPULAR! YEAH, WITH A PASSEL O' POLITICIANS AN' SODY-POP COWBOYS IN CENTIPEDE - - BUT LISTEN, UTAH - - -

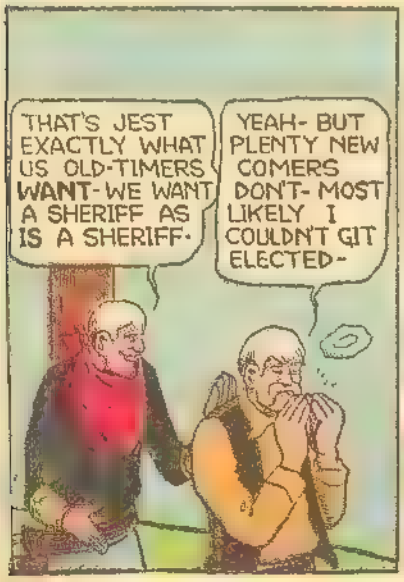
BUT DANG IT ALL, AL- I AIN'T GOT NO TIME TO RUN FER SHERIFF, I TELL YUH-
DON'T TH' WELFARE AND GOOD NAME O' THIS COUNTY YOU HELPED TO MAKE MEAN NOTHIN' TO YOU? I TELL YUH IT'S YER DUTY!

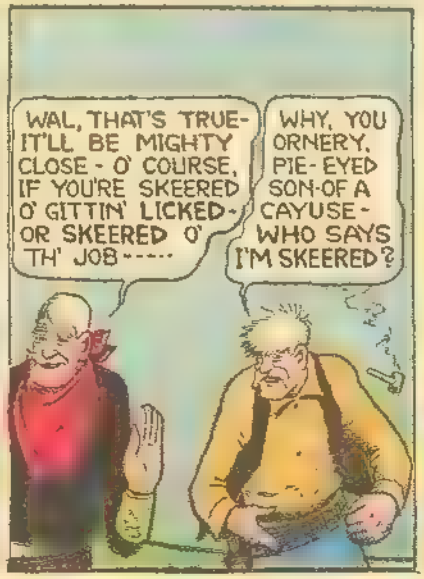

FUMMYDOODLES! NO BODY DON'T RUSTLE MY STEERS - I'VE ALLUS FIGGERED ONE DAID RUSTLER PER EACH MISSIN' STEER- IT'S WORKED RIGHT GOOD FER ME-
SURE- I KNOW- BUT A LOT O' YOUR OLD FRIENDS AIN'T SITTIN' SO PURTY-

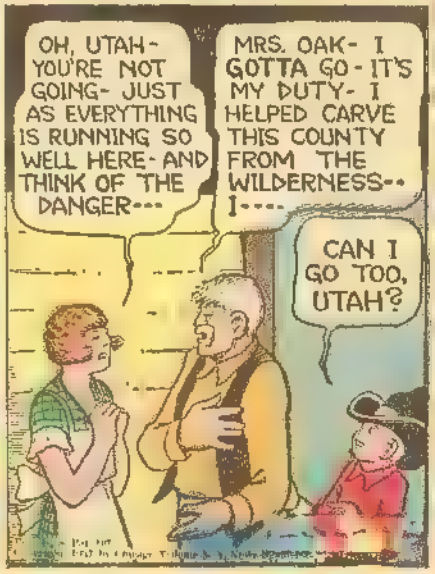

OUR PLACES HAS GOT ROADS, AND ROADS HAS GOT AUTOMOBILES - LIKE I'M TELLIN' YUH, THESE RUSTLERS NOW BUTCHERS RIGHT ON A FELLER'S PLACE, LOADS TH' BEEF, AND HIGH-TAILS AWAY-

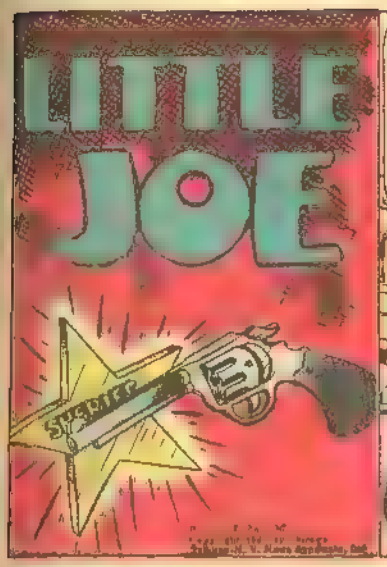
FIFTY MILE START AFORE YOU EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT, AND NO TRACKS YUH CAN FOLLER, LIKE IN THE OLD DAYS - AN' WHEN THEY ARE CAUGHT - WHAT? A GOOD, QUICK HANGIN'? NOT MUCH - IT SEEMS THERE'S SOME NEW LAW AGIN THAT-

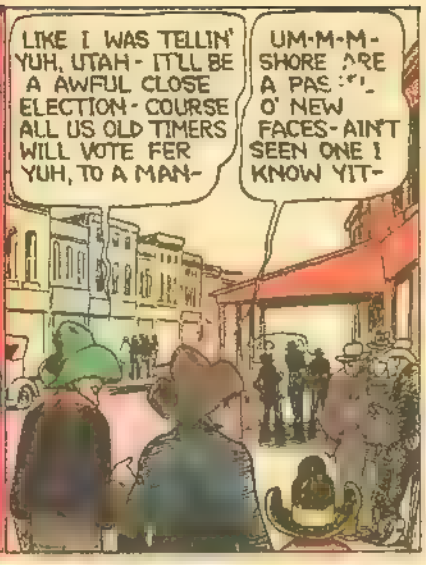

NO- TH' WORST THEY GIT IS A LITTLE JAILIN'- I TELL YUH, UTAH, SOMETHIN' HAS GOT TO BE DID-
WAL, WHAT MAKES YUH THINK I'M TH' FELLER TO DO IT? I'M JUST A OLD-FASHIONED COW MAN-
LEFFINGWELL 11-7-37


THAT'S JEST EXACTLY WHAT US OLD-TIMERS WANT - WE WANT A SHERIFF AS IS A SHERIFF.
YEAH- BUT PLENTY NEW COMERS DON'T- MOST LIKELY I COULDN'T GIT ELECTED-


WAL, THAT'S TRUE- IT'LL BE MIGHTY CLOSE - O' COURSE, IF YOU'RE SKEERED O' GITTIN' LICKED - OR SKEERED O' TH' JOB-----
WHY, YOU ORNERY, PIE-EYED SON-OF A CAYUSE - WHO SAYS I'M SKEERED?

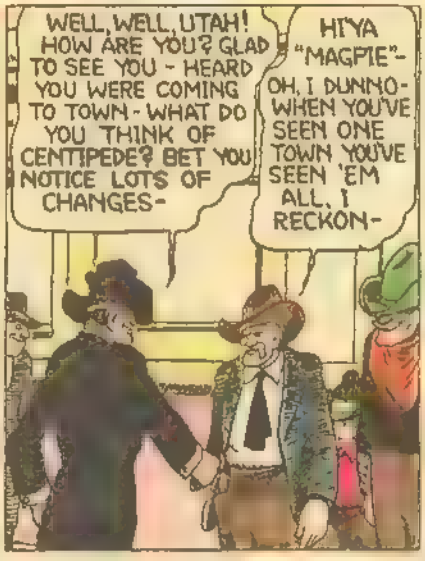

OH, UTAH - YOU'RE NOT GOING - JUST AS EVERYTHING IS RUNNING SO WELL HERE - AND THINK OF THE DANGER---
MRS. OAK - I GOTTA GO - IT'S MY DUTY - I HELPED CARVE THIS COUNTY FROM THE WILDERNESS-- I----
CAN I GO TOO, UTAH?


LITTLE JOE
SHERIFF


LIKE I WAS TELLIN' YUH, UTAH - IT'LL BE A AWFUL CLOSE ELECTION - COURSE ALL US OLD TIMERS WILL VOTE FER YUH, TO A MAN-
UM-M-M- SHORE ARE A PAS O' NEW FACES - AIN'T SEEN ONE I KNOW YIT-

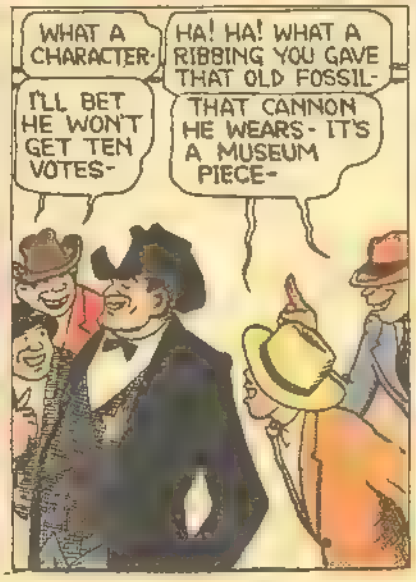
WAL, THERE'S ONE YOU KNOW - SHERIFF "MAGPIE" GUFFY- HE'S RUNNIN' FER RE-ELECTION, O' COURSE-
SHORE - I KNOW "MAGPIE" - UM-M- JEDGIN' FROM APPEARANCES HE'S GOOD AS RE-ELECTED A'READY-

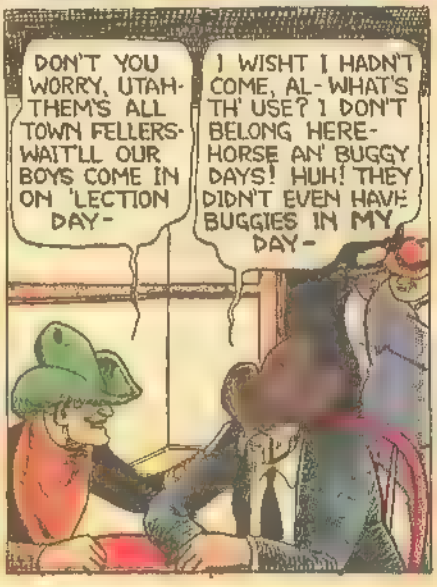
HEY! "MAGPIE"- LOOK-TH' WILD WEST, IN PERSON!
YEAH - THAT'S OLD UTAH, AIN'T IT?
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO RUN AGAINST-
MIGHT AS WELL CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR RE-ELECTION RIGHT NOW-

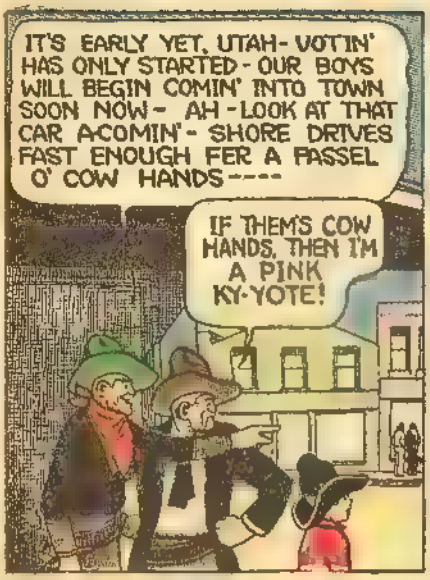

WELL, WELL, UTAH! HOW ARE YOU? GLAD TO SEE YOU - HEARD YOU WERE COMING TO TOWN - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CENTIPEDE? BET YOU NOTICE LOTS OF CHANGES-
HI'YA "MAGPIE"- OH, I DUNNO- WHEN YOU'VE SEEN ONE TOWN YOU'VE SEEN 'EM ALL, I RECKON-

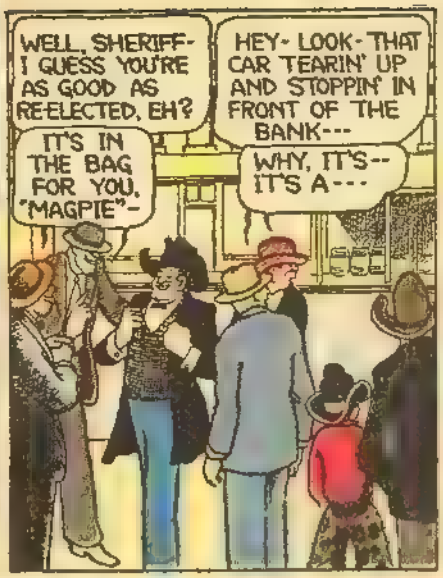
HO! HO! THAT'S A GOOD ONE - SAY- I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE TO BE MY WORTHY OPPONENT AT THE COMING ELECTION- IS THAT RIGHT?
YEP- RECKON IT IS, MORE OR LESS, "MAGPIE"-
11-14 37

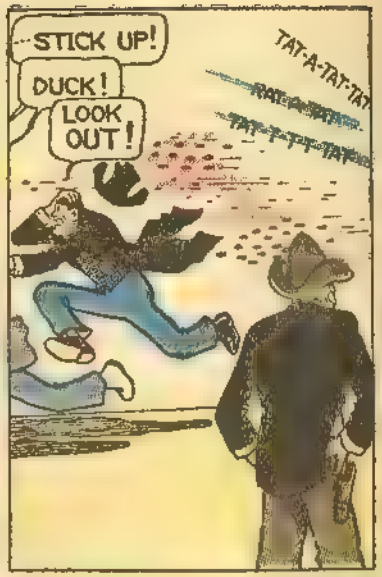
WOW! WITH YOU OUT AGAINST ME I'D SURE BETTER START MENDING MY POLITICAL FENCES - I'LL SAY!
OH, I DON'T RECKON A OLD HAS-BEEN LIKE ME WILL GIVE YOU MUCH TROUBLE-


WHAT A CHARACTER-
HA! HA! WHAT A RIBBING YOU GAVE THAT OLD FOSSIL-
I'LL BET HE WON'T GET TEN VOTES-
THAT CANNON HE WEARS - IT'S A MUSEUM PIECE-

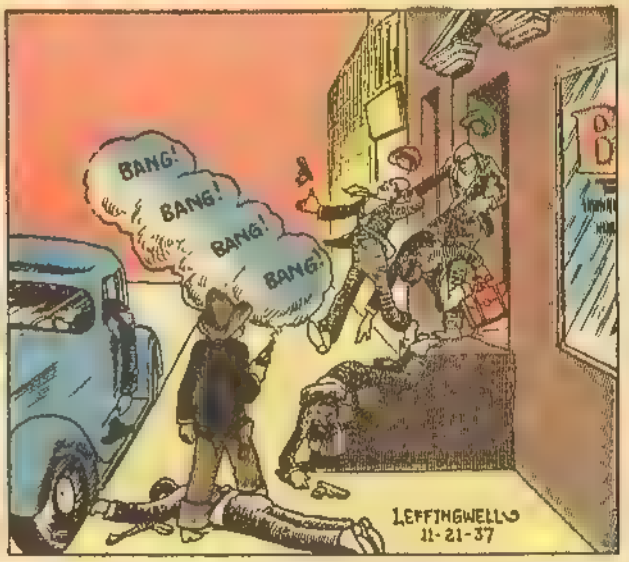

DON'T YOU WORRY, UTAH- THEM'S ALL TOWN FELLERS- WAIT'LL OUR BOYS COME IN ON 'LECTION DAY-
I WISHT I HADN'T COME, AL - WHAT'S TH' USE? I DON'T BELONG HERE- HORSE AN' BUGGY DAYS! HUH! THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE BUGGIES IN MY DAY-


IT'S EARLY YET, UTAH - VOT'IN' HAS ONLY STARTED - OUR BOYS WILL BEGIN COMIN' INTO TOWN SOON NOW - AH - LOOK AT THAT CAR A-COMIN' - SHORE DRIVES FAST ENOUGH FER A PASSEL O' COW HANDS ----
IF THEM'S COW HANDS, THEN I'M A PINK KY-YOTE!

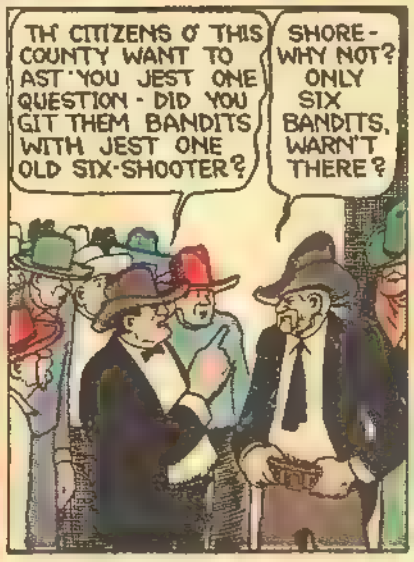

WELL, SHERIFF - I GUESS YOU'RE AS GOOD AS RE-ELECTED, EH?
IT'S IN THE BAG FOR YOU, "MAGPIE" -
HEY - LOOK - THAT CAR TEARIN' UP AND STOPPIN' IN FRONT OF THE BANK ---
WHY, IT'S -- IT'S A ---

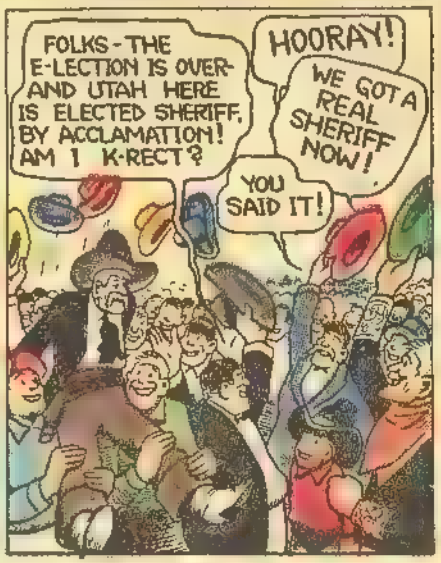

STICK UP!
DUCK!
LOOK OUT!
TAT-A-TAT-TAT
TAT-T-T-T-TAT

DROVERS SAVINGS BANK
BANG!
BANG!


BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
LEFFINGWELL
11-21-37

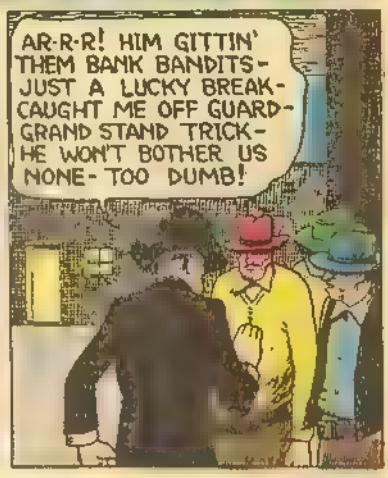
BUT, AL - THERE AIN'T NO BODY VOTIN' - AND WHAT'S BECOME O' "MAGPIE"?
"MAGPIE"? HE'S STILL UNDER 'TH' DEPOT, I RECKON - AS TO T'OTHERS, THEY'RE TALKIN', QUIET - NOT VOTIN' -

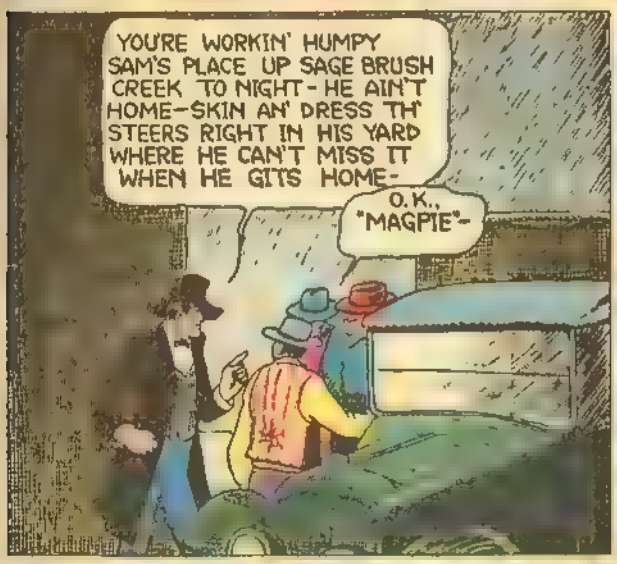

TH' CITIZENS O' THIS COUNTY WANT TO AST YOU JEST ONE QUESTION - DID YOU GIT THEM BANDITS WITH JEST ONE OLD SIX-SHOOTER?
SHORE - WHY NOT? ONLY SIX BANDITS, WARN'T THERE?

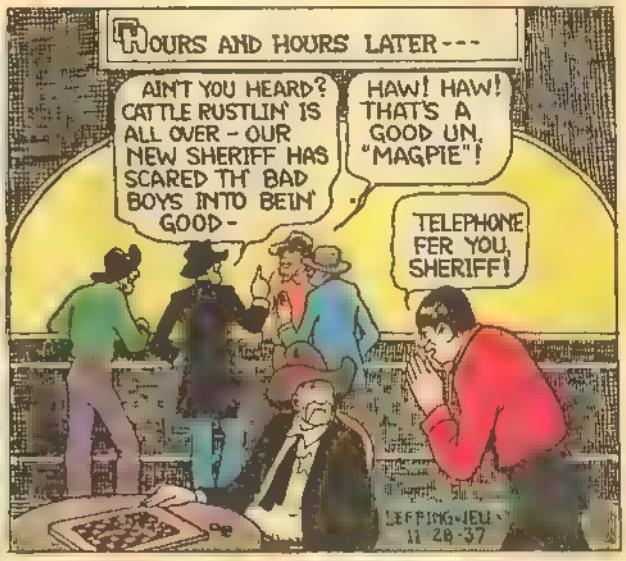

FOLKS - THE E-LECTION IS OVER - AND UTAH HERE IS ELECTED SHERIFF, BY ACCLAMATION! AM I K-RECT?
HOORAY!
WE GOT A REAL SHERIFF NOW!
YOU SAID IT!

SHORE - YOU TOLD ME I'D GIT TO BE SHERIFF - I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU - I WAS WRONG - BUT NOW I'M E-LECTED, WHAT DO I DO?
DO? YOU'LL FIND PLENTY T' OCCUPY YOU RIGHT PRONTO, I RECKON -

I MAY NOT BE SHERIFF NO MORE, BUT I'M STILL BOSS IN THESE HERE PARTS - SAVVY?
MEAN YOU FIGGER T' CARRY ON OUR LITTLE BUSINESS?
THAT UTAH FELLER THROWS A MEAN GUN -


AR-R-R! HIM GITTIN' THEM BANK BANDITS - JUST A LUCKY BREAK - CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD - GRAND STAND TRICK - HE WON'T BOTHER US NONE - TOO DUMB!


YOU'RE WORKIN' HUMPY SAM'S PLACE UP SAGE BRUSH CREEK TO NIGHT - HE AIN'T HOME - SKIN AN' DRESS TH' STEERS RIGHT IN HIS YARD WHERE HE CAN'T MISS IT WHEN HE GITS HOME -
O.K., "MAGPIE" -

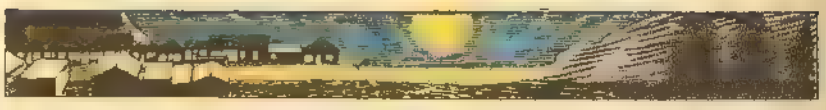

HOURS AND HOURS LATER ---
AIN'T YOU HEARD? CATTLE RUSTLIN' IS ALL OVER - OUR NEW SHERIFF HAS SCARED TH' BAD BOYS INTO BEIN' GOOD -
HAW! HAW! THAT'S A GOOD UN, "MAGPIE"!
TELEPHONE FER YOU, SHERIFF!
LEFFING-WELL
11-28-37

TWENTY STEERS --- BUTCHERED RIGHT IN MY YARD --- I WAS IN TOWN --- ☆!!! OUTRAGE -- YOU GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' --
ALL RIGHT, HUMPY - I WILL -

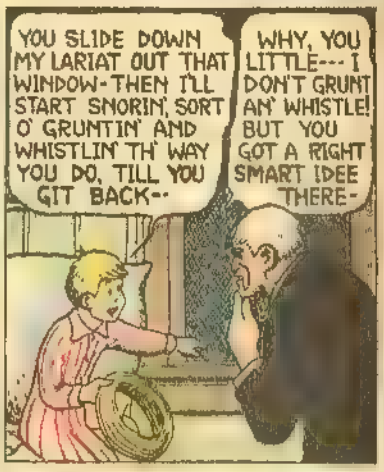
MY - MY! DON'T TELL ME THEM DASTARDLY RUSTLERS HAS HAD TH' EFFRONTERY TO FLOUT TH' MAJESTY OF LAW IN THIS COUNTY! DEFY OUR NEW SHERIFF!
WAL, YES AN' NO - BUT IT'S NOT SERIOUS, I RECKON - SIMPLE MATTER -

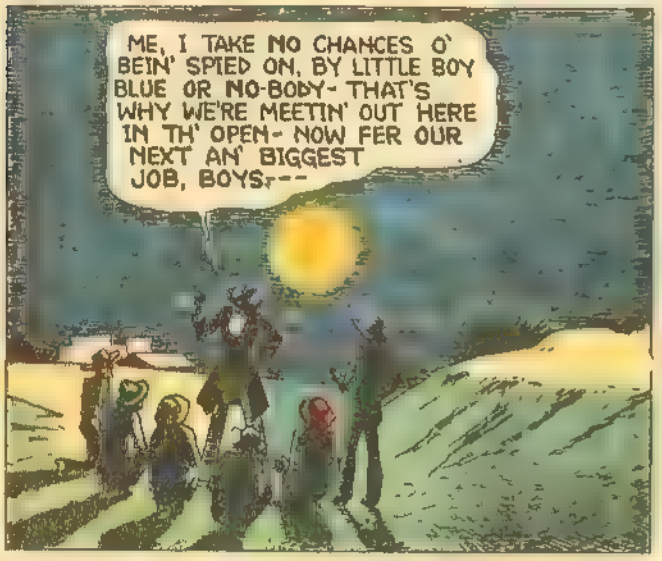
KETCH TH' RUSTLERS, DEAD OR ALIVE --- ALIVE IF I MISS - AND KETCH THEIR LEADER --- TH' SAME WAY - I DON'T ANTICEY-PATE NO GREAT DIFFEY-CULTY, THANKEE -

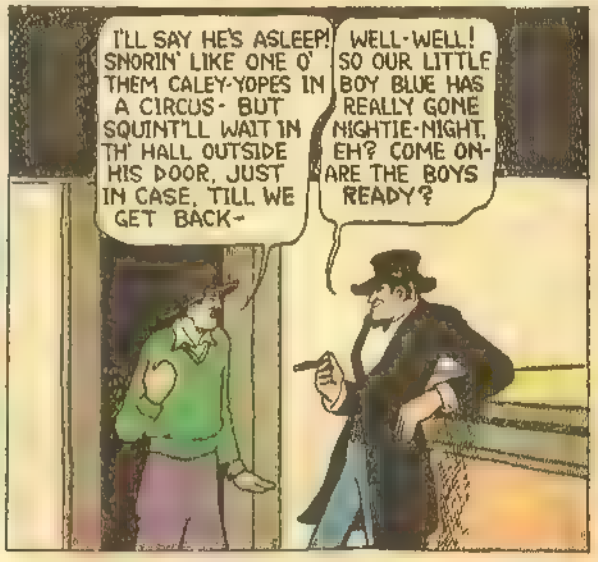
WAAL, BOYS- IT'S GITTIN' RIGHT LATE- RECKON I'LL TURN IN- I AIN'T SO YOUNG AND SPRY AS I USTER BE- HO-O-O--HUM!



SH-H-H! DAG DRAT THEM KI-YOTES- SOMEONE RIGHT IN TH' HALL- HOWM I GOIN' TO SNEAK OUT?
THAT'S EASY- LISTEN! BOOTS DROPPIN' ON TH' FLOOR- HEAR 'EM? AND TH' BED JANGLIN' LIKE YOU TURNIN' IN--
THUMPT

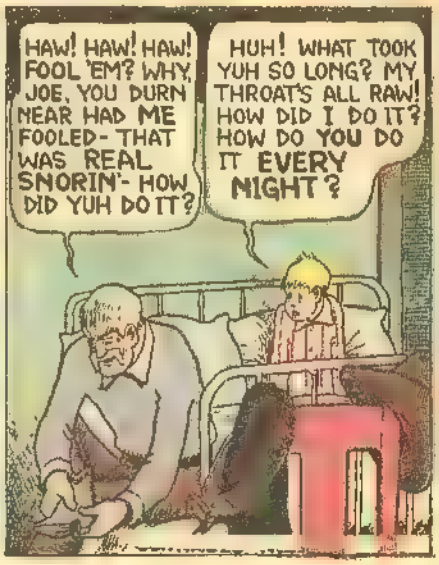

YOU SLIDE DOWN MY LARIAT OUT THAT WINDOW- THEN I'LL START SNORIN', SORT O' GRUNTIN' AND WHISTLIN' TH' WAY YOU DO, TILL YOU GIT BACK--
WHY, YOU LITTLE--- I DON'T GRUNT AN' WHISTLE! BUT YOU GOT A RIGHT SMART IDEE THERE-

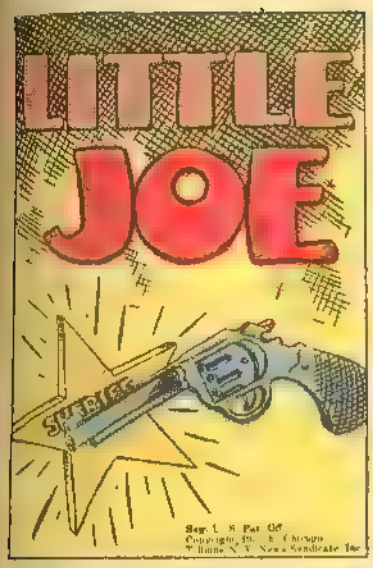

ME, I TAKE NO CHANCES O' BEIN' SPIED ON, BY LITTLE BOY BLUE OR NO-BODY- THAT'S WHY WE'RE MEETIN' OUT HERE IN TH' OPEN- NOW FER OUR NEXT AN' BIGGEST JOB, BOYS--

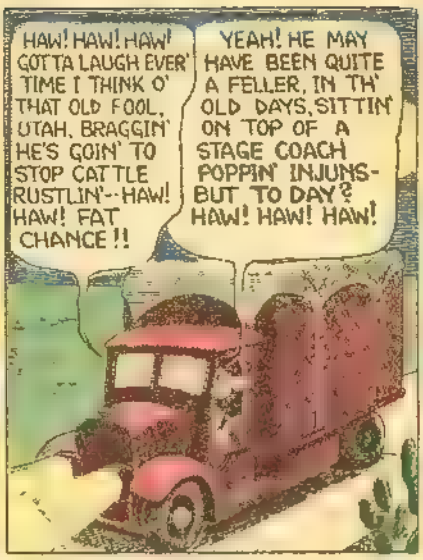

I'LL SAY HE'S ASLEEP! SNORIN' LIKE ONE O' THEM CALEY-YOPES IN A CIRCUS- BUT SQUINT'LL WAIT IN TH' HALL OUTSIDE HIS DOOR, JUST IN CASE, TILL WE GET BACK-
WELL-WELL! SO OUR LITTLE BOY BLUE HAS REALLY GONE NIGHTIE-NIGHT, EH? COME ON- ARE THE BOYS READY?

HAW! LITTLE BOY BLUE! THATS A GOOD NAME FER TH' OLD FOOL-
HE WON'T BE SHERIFF LONG-
YOU'RE SHORE GOIN' TO MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A SUCKER-
IS THAT SO?

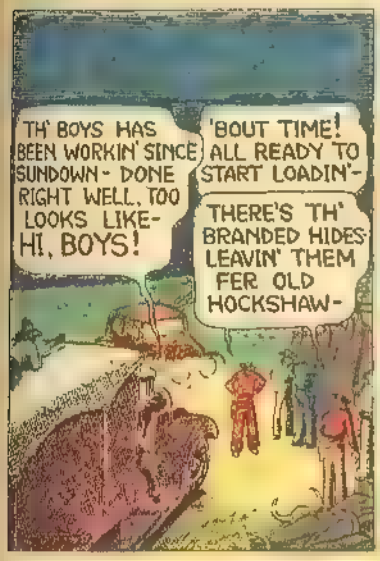
A-R-R-R--R--RUMPH
WHE-E-E-E--SPT!
AR-R-R--R- RUMPH
WHE-E-E-E--SPT!
LEFFINGWELL
12-5-37


HAW! HAW! HAW! FOOL 'EM? WHY, JOE, YOU DURN NEAR HAD ME FOOLED- THAT WAS REAL SNORIN'- HOW DID YUH DO IT?
HUH! WHAT TOOK YUH SO LONG? MY THROAT'S ALL RAW! HOW DID I DO IT? HOW DO YOU DO IT EVERY NIGHT?


LITTLE JOE
SURPRISE


HAW! HAW! HAW! GOTTA LAUGH EVER' TIME I THINK O' THAT OLD FOOL, UTAH, BRAGGIN' HE'S GOIN' TO STOP CATTLE RUSTLIN'--HAW! HAW! FAT CHANCE!!
YEAH! HE MAY HAVE BEEN QUITE A FELLER, IN TH' OLD DAYS, SITTIN' ON TOP OF A STAGE COACH POPPIN' INJUNS- BUT TO DAY? HAW! HAW! HAW!

WAIT'LL HIS PAL, THREE-CARD AL, FINDS OUT HOW MANY O' HIS STEERS WE'VE HELPED OURSELVES TO--
YEAH- THAT WAS A SLICK IDEA O' 'MAGPIE' GUFFY'S- IT'LL SURE MAKE OLD UTAH LOOK AWFUL SILLY-

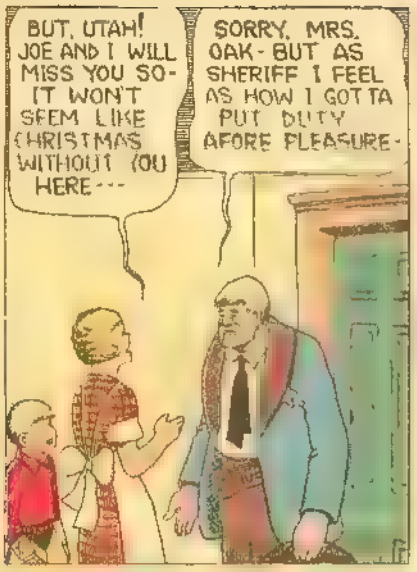

TH' BOYS HAS BEEN WORKIN' SINCE SUNDOWN- DONE RIGHT WELL, TOO LOOKS LIKE- HI, BOYS!
'BOUT TIME! ALL READY TO START LOADIN'-
THERE'S TH' BRANDED HIDES LEAVIN' THEM FER OLD HOCKSHAW-

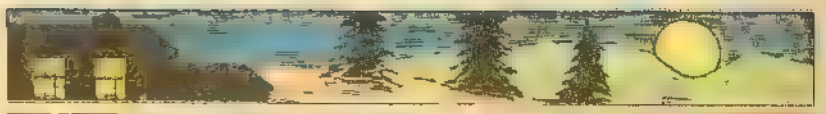
HAW! HAW! LET'S PHONE TH' OLD FOOL IN TH' MORNIN' AN' TELL HIM WHERE TO LOOK-
'TWON'T BE NECESSARY, I RECKON- GIT 'EM UP, RUSTLERS!

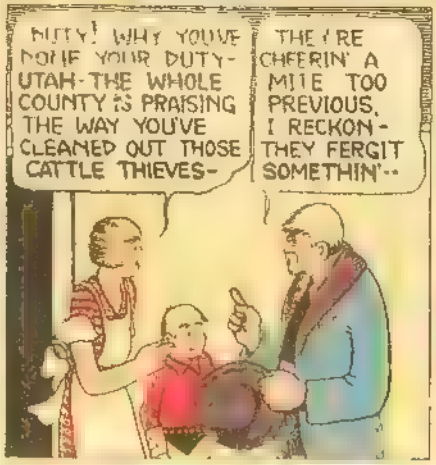
GIT 'EM UP, NOTHIN'!
THERE'S TEN OF US- GET HIM, BOYS! GLUP!!!

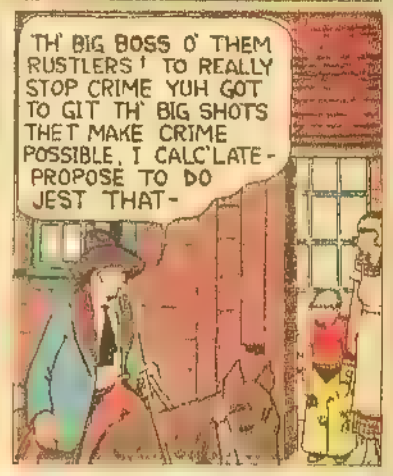
DAYLIGHT AT THREE-CARD AL'S-
HELLO, YUH LOP-EARED BILLY GOAT- YUH GOT ENOUGH BEEF CUT UP DOWN TH' TRAIL TO LAST A YEAR, IF YUH HAUL IT IN AFORE SOMEBODY STEALS IT-

UTAH! WHAT TH--? THEM *!!!*** !!!!! RUSTLERS AGIN? WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?
WA-A-AL, AL, IN THIS WORLD THEY AIN'T GONE, OR GOIN', NEITHER- BUT AS TO WHICH WAY THEY WENT FURTHER 'N THET, I'D HATE TO SAY-
LEFFINGWELL 12-12-37

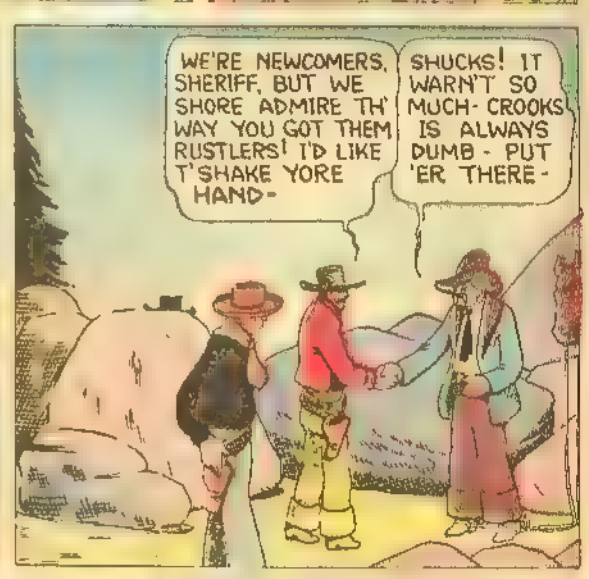

BUT, UTAH! JOE AND I WILL MISS YOU SO- IT WON'T SEEM LIKE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT YOU HERE---
SORRY, MRS. OAK- BUT AS SHERIFF I FEEL AS HOW I GOTTA PUT DUTY AFORE PLEASURE-




DUTY! WHY YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTY- UTAH- THE WHOLE COUNTY IS PRAISING THE WAY YOU'VE CLEANED OUT THOSE CATTLE THIEVES-
THEY'RE CHEERIN' A MITE TOO PREVIOUS, I RECKON- THEY FERGIT SOMETHIN'--

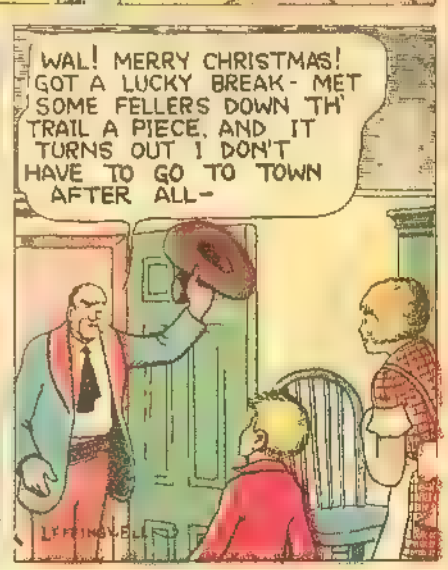

TH' BIG BOSS O' THEM RUSTLERS! TO REALLY STOP CRIME YUH GOT TO GIT TH' BIG SHOTS THET MAKE CRIME POSSIBLE. I CALC'LATE- PROPOSE TO DO JEST THAT-

HOURS LATER, ON THE TRAIL---
HA! WHAT LUCK! HERE HE COMES NOW- A PERFECT SPOT- NO WITNESSES- NOW YOU REMEMBER JUST WHAT YOU'RE TO DO?
SURE- GIT HIM TO SHAKE HANDS-
THEN, WHILE NICK HANGS ONTO HIS HAND, I PLUG HIM-


WE'RE NEWCOMERS, SHERIFF, BUT WE SHORE ADMIRE TH' WAY YOU GOT THEM RUSTLERS! I'D LIKE T'SHAKE YORE HAND-
SHUCKS! IT WARN'T SO MUCH- CROOKS IS ALWAYS DUMB - PUT 'ER THERE-

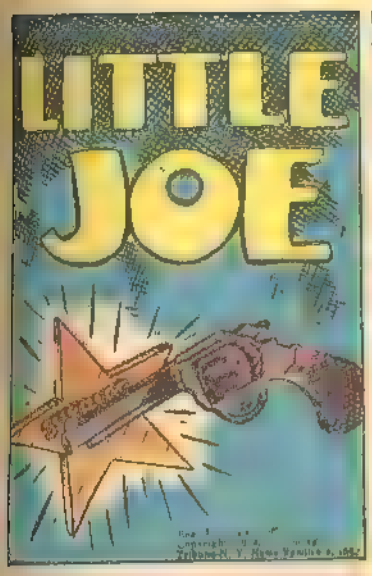
HA! YOU GOT HIM NICK- GIVE IT TO HIM, SNAKEY- GLUP!
YEP DUMB- DIDN'T FIGGER I'D PACK AN EXTRA GUN FER MY LEFT HAND, JEST IN CASE-
BANG!
BANG!

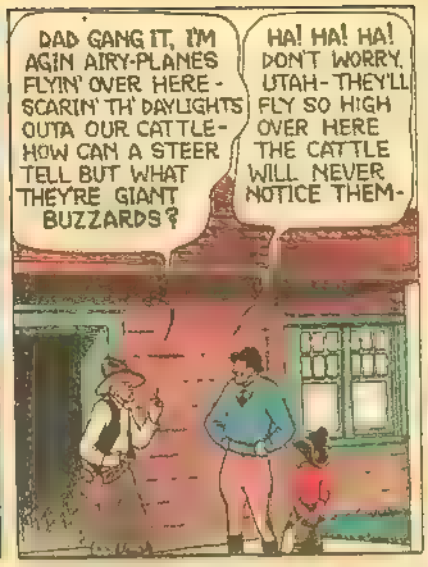
DOG GONE- A SWELL NEW HOUSE- EVER'THING ALL SET- AN' UTAH HAS TO MISS OUR FIRST CHRISTMAS HERE-
JOE! LOOK! ISN'T THAT UTAH COMING BACK UP THE TRAIL?


WAL! MERRY CHRISTMAS! GOT A LUCKY BREAK- MET SOME FELLERS DOWN TH' TRAIL A PIECE, AND IT TURNS OUT I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO TOWN AFTER ALL-

GEE, MAW - I BET LAST NEW YEARS YOU NEVER FIGGERED WE'D BE DOIN' SO WELL BY NOW - NEW HOUSE - FINE NEW CATTLE RANGE - UTAH 'LECTED SHERIFF -
NO, SON - A YEAR AGO ALL THIS WOULD HAVE SEEMED A FANTASTIC DREAM, TOO WONDERFUL EVER TO COME TRUE -
HEY, UTAH - WHATCHA SEE?
STRANGER COMIN' UP TH' TRAIL - ODD LOOKIN' RIG HE'S GOT ON - CAIN'T FIGGER HIM OUT A-TALL -
HOWDY, FOLKS - DRILL IS MY NAME - DAVE DRILL - YOU MUST BE MR. UTAH -
YEP - ONLY THERE AIN'T NO HANDLE - IT'S JEST PLAIN UTAH -
I DON'T LIKE TO IMPOSE ON YOU PEOPLE, BUT COULD I GET BOARD AND LODGING HERE FOR A FEW DAYS?
HM-M-- MRS. OAK IS TH' BOSS -
CERTAINLY, MR. DRILL - WE HAVE PLENTY OF ROOM -
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE AIN'T A CROOK? ALL THEM FANCY CLOTHES - HE'LL BEAR WATCHIN' -
NONSENSE - HE'S AN ENGINEER OF SOME SORT - HE'S NO CROOK -
12-26-37
ALL THEM THOUSANDS AN' THOUSANDS O' ROCKS - WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
WHY, SON - DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR? THE GLACIERS BROUGHT THEM -
TH'---ER--- GL--- GLA-- GLA-SHURS? THEY DID? WHERE ARE TH' GLA-SHURS NOW?
NOW? WHY, THEY'VE GONE BACK AFTER MORE ROCKS -
HA! HA! HA! THAT'S A GOOD UN! HAW! HAW! HAW! DON'T FRET NO MORE 'BOUT THET FELLER, MRS. OAK - HE'S ALL RIGHT -
HUMPH - YOU MEN SURELY HAVE STRANGE WAYS OF JUDGING CHARACTER!
LEFFINWELL

JUST BECAUSE MR. DRILL CAN READ AND WRITE, BECAUSE HE'S NOT JUST AN ILLITERATE OAF, YOU THINK HE'S A SISSY-
ALL I SAID WAS HE'D MAKE A RIGHT NICE LINK IN A DAISY CHAIN- BUT I AIN'T GOT TIME T' ARGEY, NOW-
HEY, YOU! LOOKIN' FER SOMEBODY?
OOOF!
YEAH, MY LITTLE CHUM- LOOKIN' FER THAT DUDE YUH GOT HERE- BUT DON'T BOTHER T' ANNOUNCE ME-- AH-HAAA!
YOU! YOU! IF UTAH WERE ONLY HERE---
HA! HA! WAL, GOLDI-LOCKS-HE AIN'T-SEE?
BUT I AM, BIG BOY-
WAL-WAL, PANTY-WAIST- E-MAGINE MEETIN' YOU HERE- AIN'T THIS JES'T TOO DANDY FER WORDS?
WELL, I'M VERY HAPPY ABOUT THE WHOLE THING--
OH!
WHY, I'LL-- AR-R-R-R--R-- GLUP!
HO! ONE O' THEM BOXERS, EH? WHY YUH CREAM PUFF- SOCK ME IN TH' NECK, WILL YUH- WHEN I GIT DONE WIT' YOUR NECK---
OH, UTAH! YOU SAW HIS TRACKS DOWN THE TRAIL AND CAME BACK-
GEE, MR. DRILL- TELL UTAH WHAT YOU DID TO THAT FELLER-
DON'T RECKON IT'LL BE NECESSARY TO TELL ME A THING---- ER-- -- PARDNER-
CONTINUED NEXT MONTH


LITTLE
JOE


DAD GANG IT, I'M AGIN AIRY-PLANES FLYIN' OVER HERE - SCARIN' TH' DAYLIGHTS OUTA OUR CATTLE - HOW CAN A STEER TELL BUT WHAT THEY'RE GIANT BUZZARDS?
HA! HA! HA! DON'T WORRY, UTAH - THEY'LL FLY SO HIGH OVER HERE THE CATTLE WILL NEVER NOTICE THEM -

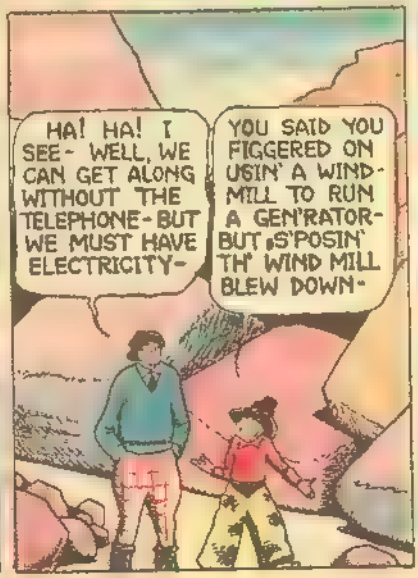
BUT THET BEACON LIGHT, AS YUH CALLS IT, BLAZIN' ALL NIGHT LONG, KEEPIN' PEOPLE AWAKE - CAIN'T FOLKS HAVE NO PEACE AN' PRIVACY NO PLACE ANY MORE?
OH, I'M SURE IT WON'T BOTHER YOU HERE, UTAH - IN FACT, IT WILL BE SORT OF COMPANY -

IT WILL BE COMPANY FOR US - THAT LIGHT - JUST KNOWING OTHERS, TOO, ARE LOOKING AT IT - DEPENDING ON IT -
AND, UTAH - MR. DRILL SAYS HE'S GOIN' TO GIVE ME A STEADY JOB, SOON AS TH' LIGHT'S UP -

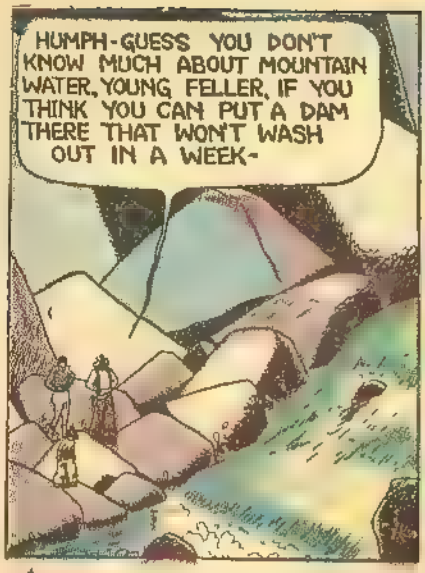
YO', SEE, UTAH, WE GET AROUND TO SERVICE THE LIGHTS EVERY FEW MONTHS - BUT SOME ONE SHOULD BE ON HAND TO WATCH THEM - KEEP THEM FROM GOING OUT, IF POSSIBLE - REPORT AT ONCE IF THEY DO GO OUT -

HUMPH! HOW COULD JOE GIT WORD TO YUH? IT'S A DAY'S RIDE, AT BEST, TO TH' NEAREST TELEY-PHONE -
HM - YES - THAT'S NOT SO GOOD - AS SHERIFF I'D THINK YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE A PHONE - SUPPOSE YOU WERE NEEDED QUICKLY -

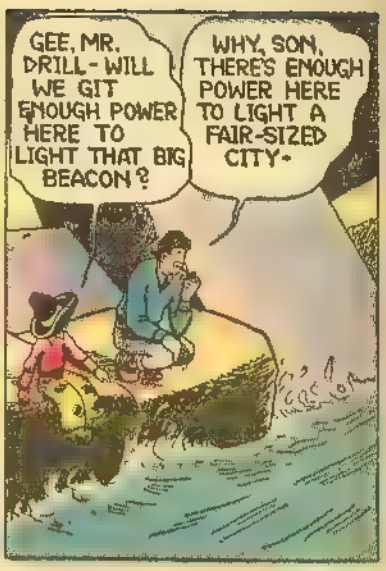
OH, THAT AIN'T LIKELY - AFTER I SETTLES A ARGUMENT WITH A LAWBREAKER NOTHIN' IS LI'BLE TO HAPPEN AGIN FER A YEAR OR TWO - TILL SOME STRANGER COMES ALONG WHO AIN'T HEARD -

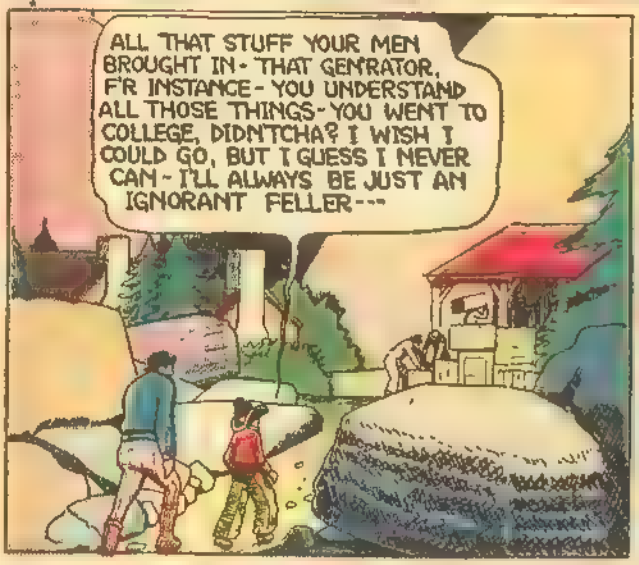

HA! HA! I SEE - WELL, WE CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT THE TELEPHONE - BUT WE MUST HAVE ELECTRICITY -
YOU SAID YOU FIGGERED ON USIN' A WIND-MILL TO RUN A GEN'RATOR - BUT, S'POSIN' TH' WIND MILL BLEW DOWN -

NOW I BEEN READIN' - 'BOUT WATER POWER - WE GOT PLENTY FAST WATER HERE THAT NEVER FREEZES UP....
EH? SA-A-AY! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT? JOE, YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE -
LEFFINGWELL 9-30

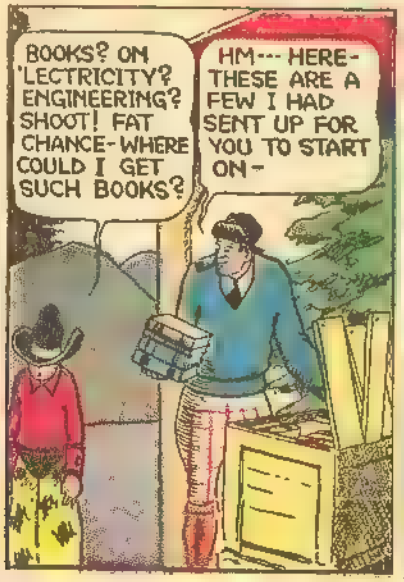

HUMPH-GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MOUNTAIN WATER, YOUNG FELLER, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT A DAM THERE THAT WON'T WASH OUT IN A WEEK-

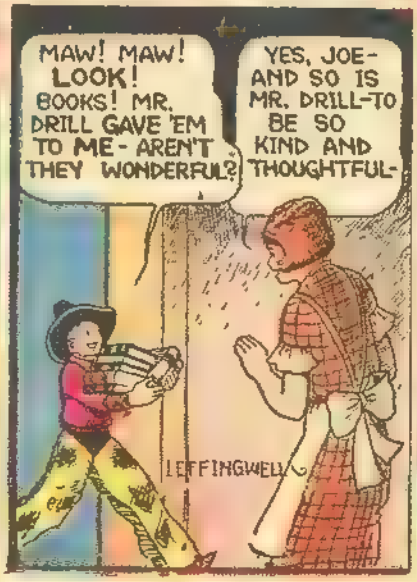
ON THE CONTRARY-I'VE BUILT DAMS IN THE ANDES, AND IN THE MOUNTAINS OF AFRICA-YOU KNOW CATTLE, UTAH-WELL, I KNOW DAMS-

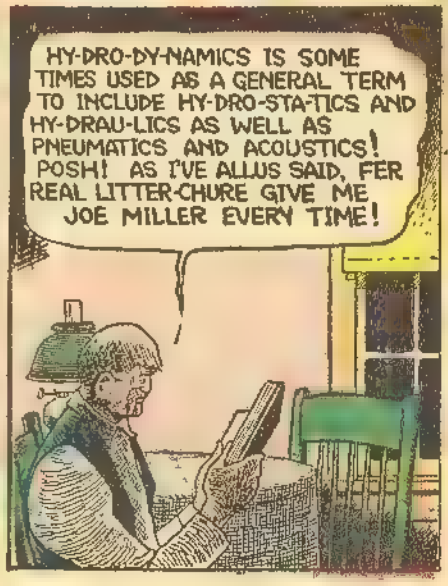

GEE, MR. DRILL-WILL WE GIT ENOUGH POWER HERE TO LIGHT THAT BIG BEACON?
WHY, SON, THERE'S ENOUGH POWER HERE TO LIGHT A FAIR-SIZED CITY-

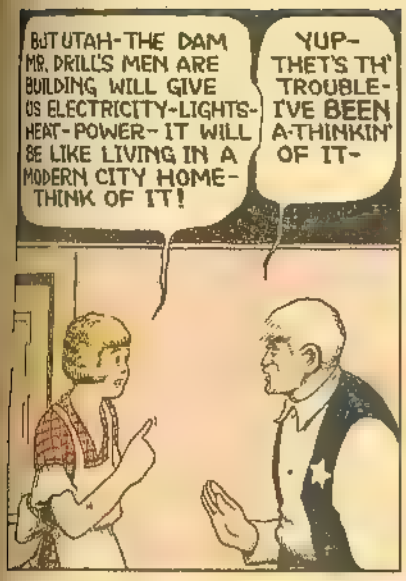

ALL THAT STUFF YOUR MEN BROUGHT IN-THAT GEN'RATOR, F'R INSTANCE-YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THOSE THINGS-YOU WENT TO COLLEGE, DIDN'TCHA? I WISH I COULD GO, BUT I GUESS I NEVER CAN-I'LL ALWAYS BE JUST AN IGNORANT FELLER---

THAT'S UP TO YOU, SON-IF YOU'RE LAZY YOU'LL BE IGNORANT-AS TO COLLEGE-SOME OF THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS WHO EVER LIVED NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO GO TO COLLEGE- BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LAZY-READ THE RIGHT BOOKS---
1-16-38

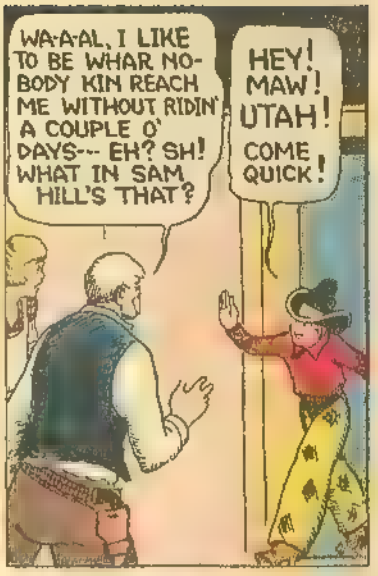

BOOKS? ON 'LECTRICITY? ENGINEERING? SHOOT! FAT CHANCE-WHERE COULD I GET SUCH BOOKS?
HM--- HERE-THESE ARE A FEW I HAD SENT UP FOR YOU TO START ON-


MAW! MAW! LOOK! BOOKS! MR. DRILL GAVE 'EM TO ME-AREN'T THEY WONDERFUL?
YES, JOE-AND SO IS MR. DRILL-TO BE SO KIND AND THOUGHTFUL-
LEFFINGWELL


HY-DRO-DY-NAMICS IS SOME TIMES USED AS A GENERAL TERM TO INCLUDE HY-DRO-STA-TICS AND HY-DRAU-LICS AS WELL AS PNEUMATICS AND ACOUSTICS! POSH! AS I'VE ALLUS SAID, FER REAL LITTER-CHURE GIVE ME JOE MILLER EVERY TIME!

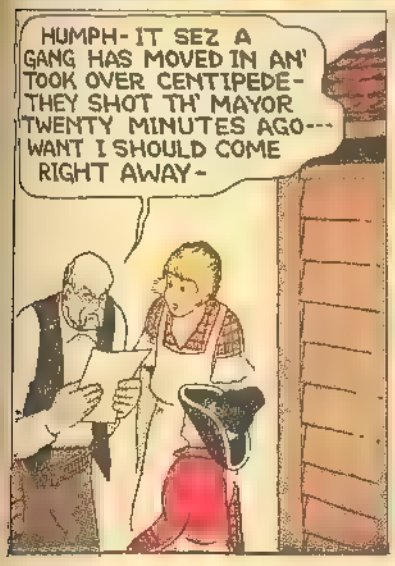

BUT UTAH-THE DAM MR. DRILL'S MEN ARE BUILDING WILL GIVE US ELECTRICITY-LIGHTS-HEAT-POWER- IT WILL BE LIKE LIVING IN A MODERN CITY HOME- THINK OF IT!
YUP- THET'S TH' TROUBLE- I'VE BEEN A-THINKIN' OF IT-

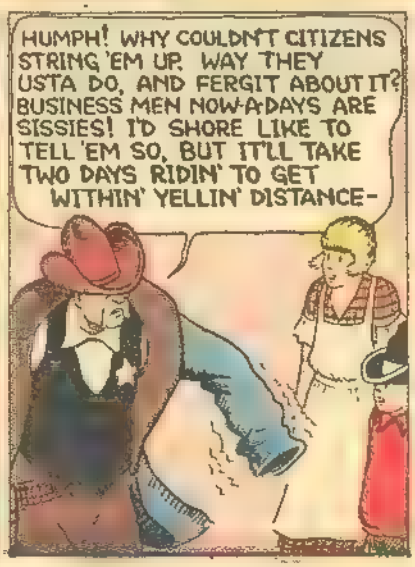
WHIRRIN' AN' SPITTIN' GADGETS- LIGHTS FLASHIN'- TURNIN' NIGHT INTO DAY- WHY? MAYBE I'M JUST AN OLD FOGEY, BUT---
YOU ARE! WHY, WE HAVEN'T EVEN A TELEPHONE-


WA-A-AL, I LIKE TO BE WHAR NO-BODY KIN REACH ME WITHOUT RIDIN' A COUPLE O' DAYS--- EH? SH! WHAT IN SAM HILL'S THAT?
HEY! MAW! UTAH! COME QUICK!

WELL, I'LL BE A----!
SEE? A PLANE-HE'S CIRCLING- LOOK-WHAT'S THAT?
HE'S DROPPED SOME THING-

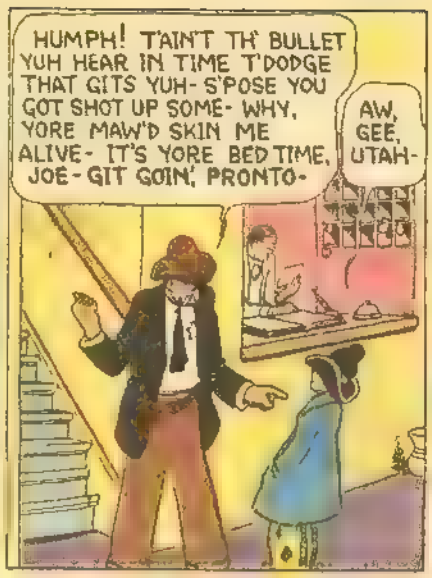
WHEE! IT'S ON A LITTLE PARACHUTE- HA! I'VE GOT IT-
IT'S A MESSAGE OF SOME SORT-

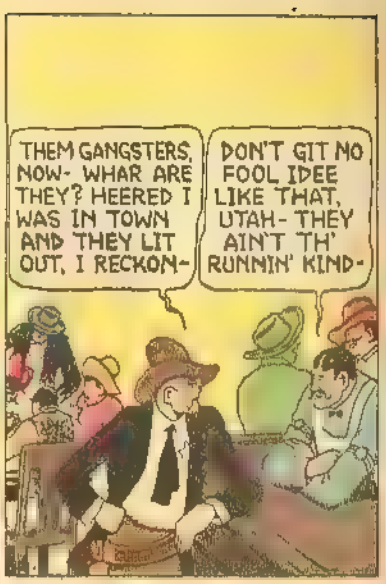

HUMPH- IT SEZ A GANG HAS MOVED IN AN' TOOK OVER CENTIPEDE- THEY SHOT TH' MAYOR TWENTY MINUTES AGO--- WANT I SHOULD COME RIGHT AWAY-


HUMPH! WHY COULDN'T CITIZENS STRING 'EM UP. WAY THEY USTA DO, AND FERGIT ABOUT IT? BUSINESS MEN NOW-A-DAYS ARE SISSIES! I'D SHORE LIKE TO TELL 'EM SO, BUT IT'LL TAKE TWO DAYS RIDIN' TO GET WITHIN' YELLIN' DISTANCE-

THAT FELLER IN TH' PLANE-IF HE COULD LAND- HE'D GET YOU THERE QUICK- HE SURE GOT WORD TO YOU ALMOST AS QUICK AS A TELEPHONE-
TELEPHONE? HUMPH- SHORE WISH WE HAD ONE- FELLER KIN TALK BACK ON A TELEPHONE-
LEFFINGWELL 1-23-38

I SHORE WAS A FOOL EVER T'LET YOU FOLLER ME TO TOWN- RIGHT LI'BLE T'BE SOME HOT LEAD FLYIN' HEREABOUTS SOON- I KIN SMELL IT A-COMIN'-
DON'T WORRY, UTAH-- I'LL BE CAREFUL-

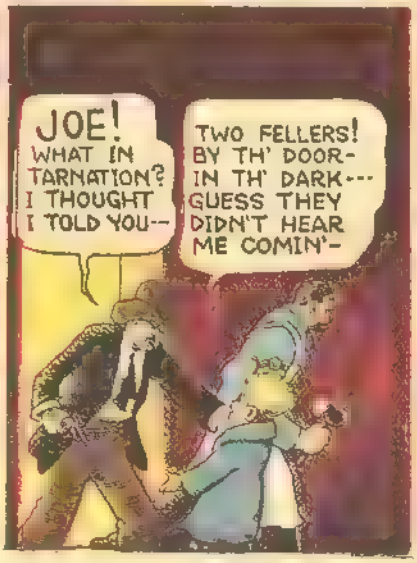

HUMPH! T'AIN'T TH' BULLET YUH HEAR IN TIME T'DODGE THAT GITS YUH- S'POSE YOU GOT SHOT UP SOME- WHY, YORE MAW'D SKIN ME ALIVE- IT'S YORE BED TIME, JOE- GIT GOIN', PRONTO-
AW, GEE, UTAH-

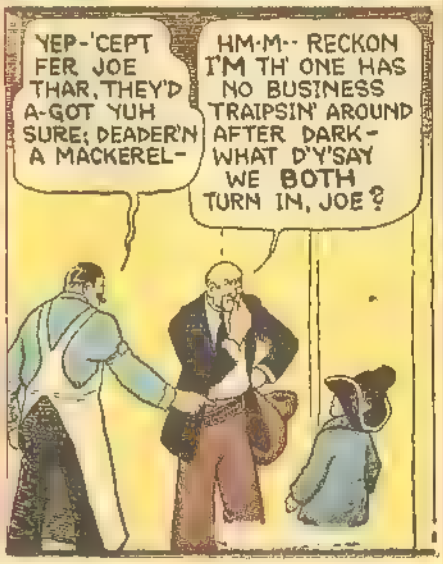

THEM GANGSTERS, NOW- WHAR ARE THEY? HEERED I WAS IN TOWN AND THEY LIT OUT, I RECKON-
DON'T GIT NO FOOL IDEE LIKE THAT, UTAH- THEY AIN'T TH' RUNNIN' KIND-

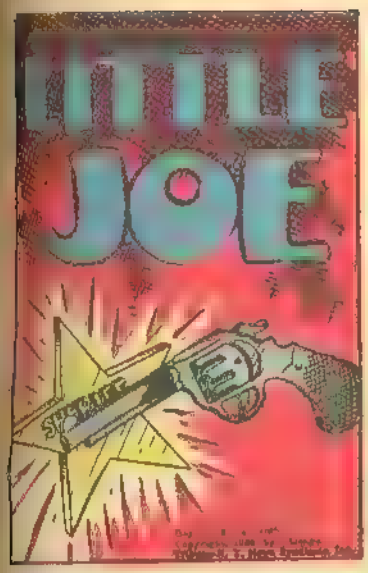
ON T'OTHER HAND, THEY AIN'T COMPLETE IDJITS- SHOOTIN' FROM TH' DARK IS THEIR PERTIKL'R SPECIALTY--- AND FROM BEHIND, TOO, LIKE THEY DONE TH' MAYOR-
HM-M-- DO TELL!

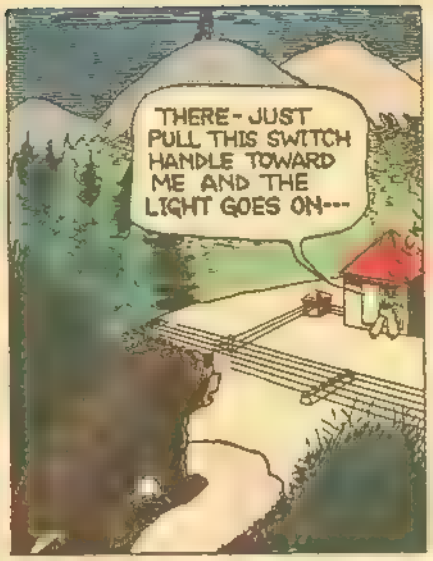
SLEEP! HUH! MUST THINK I'M A BABY YET--- WONDER WHERE UTAH COULD'A' GOT TO-- OH, THERE HE IS IN THERE---- UGH!

LOOK OUT BEHIND- IT'S A TRAP-
YEAH! QUICK! WE'RE IN TH' LIGHT- SCRAM!
LEFFINGWELL


JOE! WHAT IN TARNATION? I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU--
TWO FELLERS! BY TH' DOOR- IN TH' DARK--- GUESS THEY DIDN'T HEAR ME COMIN'-


YEP-'CEPT FER JOE THAR, THEY'D A-GOT YUH SURE; DEADER'N A MACKEREL-
HM-M-- RECKON I'M TH' ONE HAS NO BUSINESS TRAIPSIN' AROUND AFTER DARK- WHAT D'Y'SAY WE BOTH TURN IN, JOE?


LITTLE
JOE
SUGGIE


THERE - JUST PULL THIS SWITCH HANDLE TOWARD ME AND THE LIGHT GOES ON---

PUSH IT THE OTHER WAY, AND THE LIGHT GOES OFF AGAIN----
CLACK!

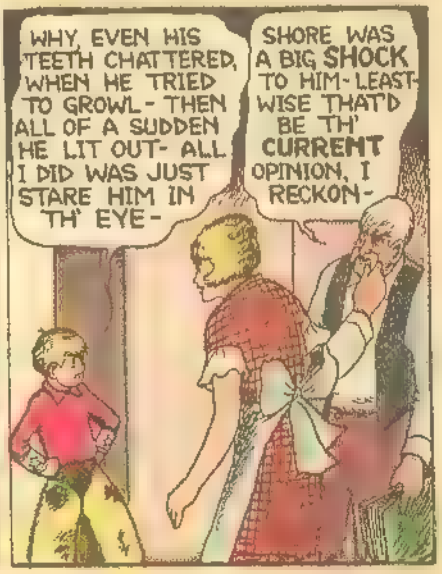
WHOOF!
----ON AGAIN--- EH?
CLICK!

B-B-B-R-R---
R-R-R-
G-G-G-R-R---

YOUFF!
CLACK!

WHUP! WHUP!

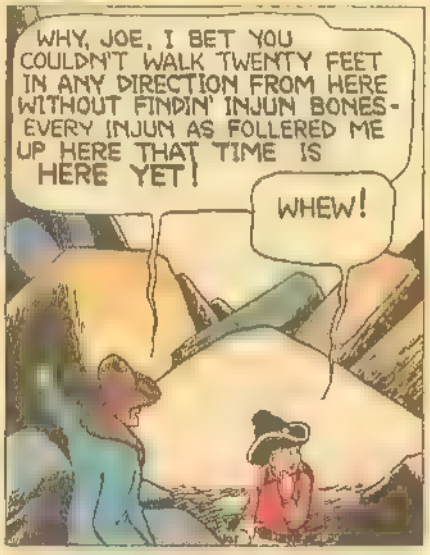
TH' BIGGEST, MEANEST GRIZZLY YOU EVER SAW - JUST READY TO GRAB ME - BUT I LOOKED HIM RIGHT IN TH' EYE AND YOU SHOULDA SEEN HIM - SORTA ALL FOLDED UP - AND HE SHOOK ALL OVER, HE WAS SO SCARED -


WHY, EVEN HIS TEETH CHATTERED, WHEN HE TRIED TO GROWL - THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN HE LIT OUT - ALL I DID WAS JUST STARE HIM IN TH' EYE -
SHORE WAS A BIG SHOCK TO HIM - LEAST-WISE THAT'D BE TH' CURRENT OPINION, I RECKON -

GEE - THIS SHORE IS WILD COUNTRY - DON'T 'PEAR AS IF ANYBODY HAD BEEN UP HERE BEFORE, EVER -
PSHAW - WHY, I SPENT A HULL WINTER RIGHT HERE OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO -

TH' INJUNS HAD SURPRISED OUR LITTLE SETTLEMENT ONE MORNIN' - I WAS TH' ONLY ONE THEY DIDN'T KETCH - AT FIRST I THOUGHT I'D GAVE 'EM TH' SLIP, BUT THEY SHORE COULD TRACK -

WELL, SIR, JOE - WHEN THEM INJUNS CAUGHT UP WITH ME HERE, WE SHORE HAD SOME RUCKUS - IT WAS FIFTY TO ONE, AT TH' BEGINNIN' - IT ENDED UP ONE 'TO NOTHIN' -


WHY, JOE, I BET YOU COULDN'T WALK TWENTY FEET IN ANY DIRECTION FROM HERE WITHOUT FINDIN' INJUN BONES - EVERY INJUN AS FOLLERED ME UP HERE THAT TIME IS HERE YET!
WHEW!

HEY! UTAH! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU! IT'S A GOAT!
HAW! HAW! CAIN'T SKEER ME!

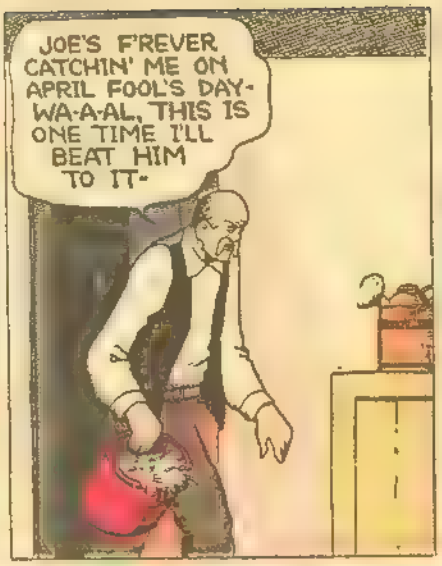
BA-A-A-A!
WHUP!

OW! HELP ME OUT O' HERE, JOE - OUCH!
I TOLD YOU TO LOOK OUT FOR THAT GOAT!

DAD GAST IT! I THOUGHT YOU SAID GHOST!

YES SIR - JEST TH' WAY OLD SOURDOUGH SYLVESTER LEFT THINGS WHEN HE WALKED OUT TWENTY YEARS AGO -
HEY! LISTEN! WHAT'S THAT?
A DAD-GASTED LITTLE ROCK SLIDE AND IT'S SEALED UP TH' ONLY DOOR OUTA THIS SHACK-
GEE, UTAH - WE'RE TRAPPED!
YEP - NOT EVEN AN AX — GOTTA CARVE OUR WAY OUT WITH OUR JACK KNIVES - IT'LL BE RIGHT SLOW GOIN'-
HM-M-- LOOK HERE, UTAH--- FLOUR IN THIS CAN - JUST AS DRY AS IT EVER WAS-
SHORE - WE WON'T STARVE - HI - WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, JOE?
IT'LL TAKE DAYS T'WHITTLE THROUGH THOSE LOGS - I WAS JUST REMEMBERIN' SOMETHIN' I READ IN ONE O' THOSE SCIENTIFIC BOOKS MR. DRILL LEFT-
A-CHOO! WHAT'S FILLIN' THIS PLACE WITH FLOUR DUST GOT T'DO WITH GIT'TIN' US OUT O' HERE? EH? AH--CHOO!
SCIENCE KIN SAVE PLENTY HARD WORK, UTAH - I'LL SHOW YOU - WATCH NOW - I'LL LIGHT THIS MATCH----
3-20-38
BOOM!
WELL, UTAH - IT WORKED! BUT NOT JUST TH' WAY I'D EXPECTED-
SO THAT'S WHAT SCIENTIFIC BOOK LARNIN' KIN DO, EH? WAL, EFFEN I'M SPARED TO GIT HOME I'M A-GOIN' TO BURN THEM BOOKS AS A ACT O' PUBLIC SAFETY!
LEFFINGWELL

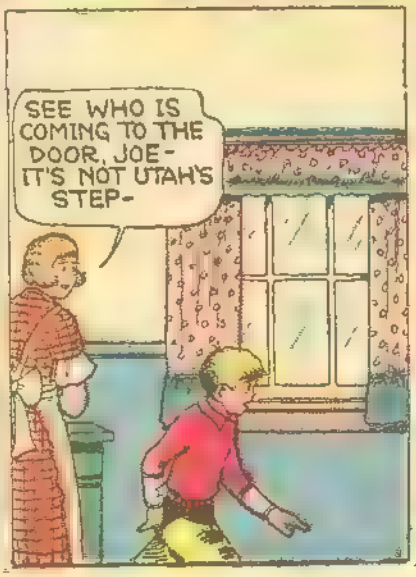
HEH! HEH! HEH! HERE'S A GOOD 'UN! I MAY BE AN OLD FOSSIL BUT I AIN'T FORGOT HOW T'PLAY-


JOE'S F'REVER CATCHIN' ME ON APRIL FOOL'S DAY- WA-A-AL, THIS IS ONE TIME I'LL BEAT HIM TO IT-

HE HARDLY EVER COMES INTO THIS STORE ROOM - BUT COME APRIL FIRST I'LL SEND HIM IN HERE FER SOMETHIN'-

AND WHEN HE OPENS TH' DOOR THIS BUCKET O' CHAFF'LL MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A---- WHUP!

LEFFIN'


SEE WHO IS COMING TO THE DOOR, JOE- IT'S NOT UTAH'S STEP-

WH-H-HO ARE YOU?
ME? HEH! HEH! I RECKON YOU SEE AFORE YOU OLD MAN APRIL FOOL HISSELF-

LITTLE
JOE
SHERIFF

HEV YOU GONE PLUMB LOCO, UTAH? THEM GANGSTERS IS JEST ITCHIN' FER A CHANCE TO GIT YUH, AND HERE YOU SIT IN TH' LIGHT, YORE BACK TO TH' DOOR----
YUP- RECKON I'M A FOOL- BUT GO AWAY AND LEMME BE A FOOL ALONE!

PORE OLD UTAH- HE MUST BE GETTIN' KINDA CRAZY- HE SEZ THIS IS THE TOUGHEST PLACE IN TOWN AND FER ME TO STAY OUTSIDE-

ALL RIGHT- BUT I'M NOT LEAVIN' THIS DOOR---SOME-BODY'S GOTTA KEEP AN EYE OPEN-

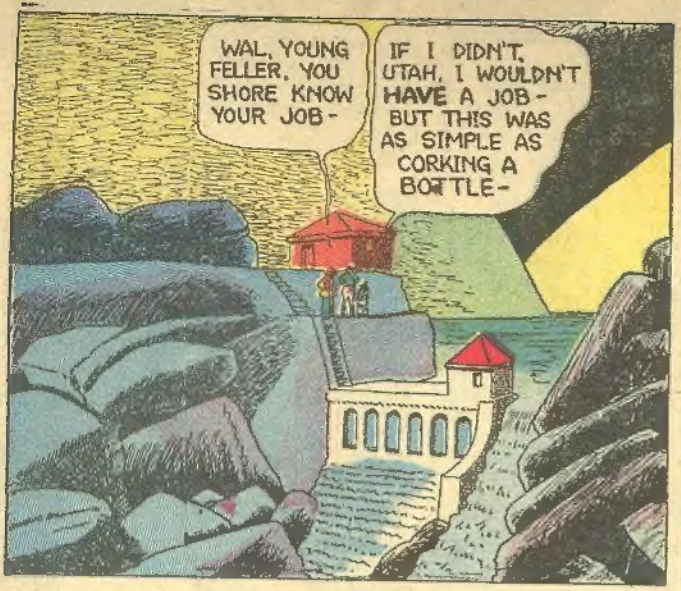
NIX! SAVE TH' LITTLE SQUIRT TILL LATER- HAND ME THAT TOMMY GUN!
CHEE! LOOK AT TH' OLD NINNY! HOW'D HE EVER LIVE SO LONG?
SO HE'S A GUN-FIGHTER, EH? HA!

GLUP!
WHAT TH---?
LOOK OUT!
2-6-38

TAKE IT EASY, GRAMP- TH' ONLY WAY YOU'LL GIT ME IS T'KILL TH' KID FIRST!

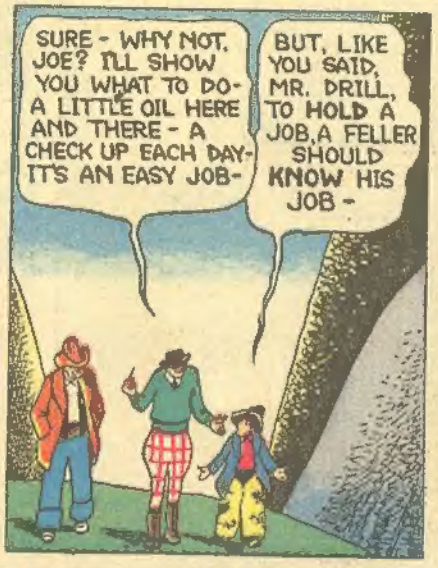
DON'T RECKON THAT'LL BE NECESSARY, MISTER-

NEATEST SHOOTIN' I EVER SEEN-
YOU MUST HAVE EYES IN TH' BACK O' YORE HAID-
JEST AN OLD FRONTIER TRICK- BIT O' LOOKIN'-GLASS SET IN MY PIPE- SORTA A REAR VISION MIRROR-
WAL- I DO DECLARE!
?


WAL, YOUNG FELLER, YOU SHORE KNOW YOUR JOB-
IF I DIDN'T, UTAH, I WOULDN'T HAVE A JOB- BUT THIS WAS AS SIMPLE AS CORKING A BOTTLE-

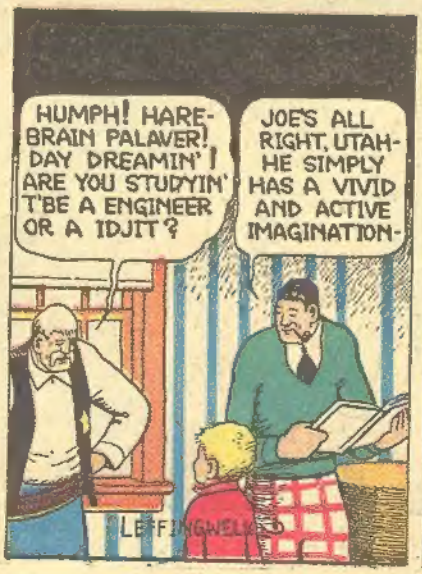
CATTLE IS MY JOB- ALL THEM WHEELS AN' GADGETS AN' CLOCK FACES IS SO MUCH FURRIN LANG-WIDGE TO ME-
IT LOOKS COMPLICATED, BUT, REALLY, IT'S ALMOST AUTOMATIC, ONCE IT'S ADJUSTED-

OF COURSE, THERE'LL HAVE TO BE A COMPETENT MAN TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS- THAT'S WHERE OUR YOUNG FRIEND HERE WILL COME IN HANDY-
GULP--- WHO? ME?


SURE- WHY NOT, JOE? I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO- A LITTLE OIL HERE AND THERE- A CHECK UP EACH DAY- IT'S AN EASY JOB-
BUT, LIKE YOU SAID, MR. DRILL, TO HOLD A JOB, A FELLER SHOULD KNOW HIS JOB-

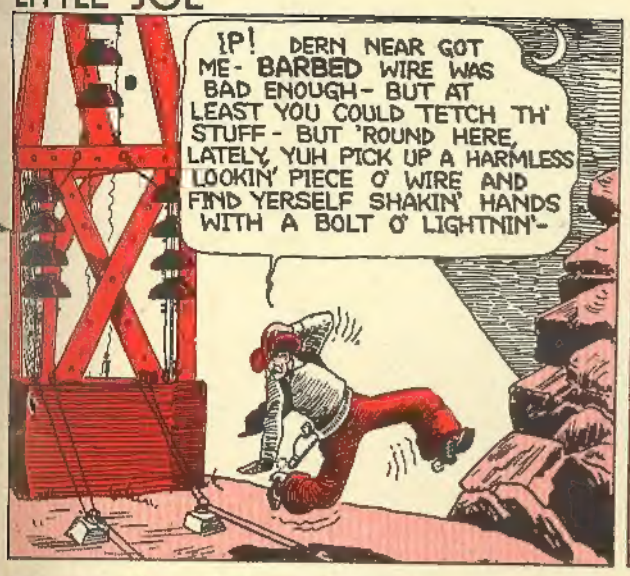
WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU, YOU WILL- YOU'VE GOT A HEAD- I PROPOSE TO TEACH YOU HOW TO USE IT--I'M GOING TO MAKE AN ENGINEER OUT OF YOU-
GEE- WITH THAT DAM WE CAN HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHTS IN TH' HOUSE-

AND I'VE BEEN READIN' TH' CATALOGUES- MAW CAN HAVE 'LECTRICITY DO HER WASHIN' AND IRONIN' AND DRYIN' AND CLEANIN' AND COOKIN' AND HEATIN' AND MIXIN' CAKES---- AND IT'LL RUN MACHINES TO DO TH' MILKIN'-----


HUMPH! HARE-BRAIN PALAVER! DAY DREAMIN'! ARE YOU STUDYIN' T'BE A ENGINEER OR A IDJIT?
JOE'S ALL RIGHT, UTAH- HE SIMPLY HAS A VIVID AND ACTIVE IMAGINATION-

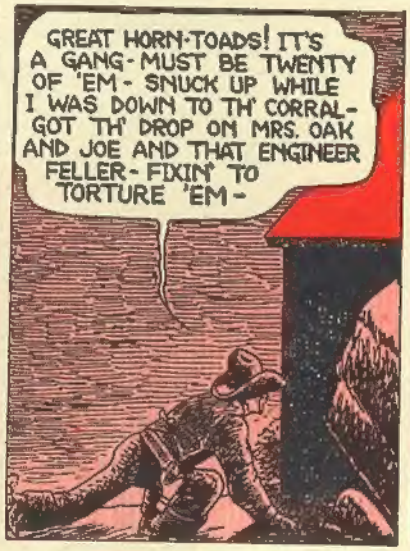
'MAGINATION! BAH! WHAT IN TARNATION GOOD ARE CRAZY DREAMS TO ANYONE?
NOTHING, WITHOUT INTELLIGENT EFFORT- EVERYBODY DREAMS- BUT ONLY A FEW STUDY AND STRIVE AND LEARN TO MAKE THEIR FINEST DREAMS COME TRUE-

LITTLE JOE

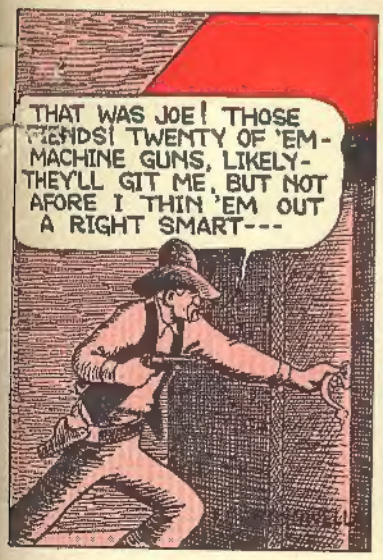

IP! DERN NEAR GOT ME- BARBED WIRE WAS BAD ENOUGH- BUT AT LEAST YOU COULD TETCH TH' STUFF- BUT 'ROUND HERE, LATELY, YUH PICK UP A HARMLESS LOOKIN' PIECE O' WIRE AND FIND YERSELF SHAKIN' HANDS WITH A BOLT O' LIGHTNIN'-

PROGRESS! BAH! BUT IT WON'T CHANGE THEM OLD MOUNTINGS- NO SIREE- UP HERE IT'LL ALLUS BE TH' SAME- QUIET- RESTFUL- ---- SH-H--- WHAT TH'--?

UP WIT' 'EM! HIGHER! DAT'S BETTER-
AW, WHY NOT LET 'EM HAVE IT, CHIEF?
NO! LATER PERHAPS--BUT FIRST WE HAVE SOME SPORT WITH THEM, EH? HA! HA! HA!


GREAT HORN-TOADS! IT'S A GANG- MUST BE TWENTY OF 'EM- SNUCK UP WHILE I WAS DOWN TO TH' CORRAL- GOT TH' DROP ON MRS. OAK AND JOE AND THAT ENGINEER FELLER- FIXIN' TO TORTURE 'EM-

WHOEE!!! OW!
HAW! HAW! HAW!
DAT'S A NIFTY, CHIEF!
HA! THAT EES ONLY THE BEGINNING-
2-27-38


THAT WAS JOE! THOSE FIENDS! TWENTY OF 'EM- MACHINE GUNS, LIKELY- THEY'LL GIT ME, BUT NOT AFORE I THIN 'EM OUT A RIGHT SMART---

WANT FUN, DO YUH, YE, KI-YOTES--? WAL--- I'LL GIVE--- ER--- ULP---
---- AH! WHAT HORRIBLE FATE IS IN STORE FOR OUR FRIENDS? TUNE IN AT THE SAME TIME TOMORROW FOR ANOTHER GLUTZ GLUCOSE HOUR BROUGHT TO YOU------

WHY, UTAH! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR FACE IS AS RED AS A BEET-
GEE, UTAH! YOU SURE MISSED A SWELL PROGRAM!
EH? OH! HA! HA! NO, I HEERED MOST OF IT, I RECKON- 'COURSE, I COULD TELL IT WAS JEST PLAY ACTIN'-

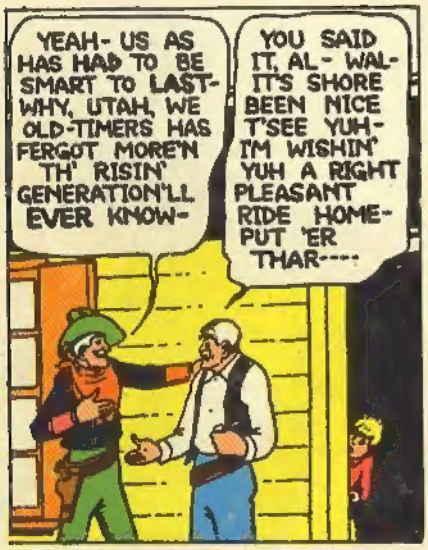
9

LITTLE JOE

WAL, THREE CARD AL - NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN HOW WE'RE LIT UP LIKE A FANCY CHRISTMAS TREE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
WAL, UTAH, EFFEN I HADN'T SEEN IT I'D NEVER BELIEVED IT-- BUT TELL ME ONE THING--

YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT E-LECTRICITY- WHO 'ROUND HERE DOES?
NO-BODY! OH, JOE HERE HAS READ A COUPLE O' BOOKS-THAT MAKES HIM A EX- PERT!

HAW! HAW! HAW! HIM? THEY CLAIM KIDS NOW-A-DAYS KNOWS MORE'N OLD GRAY-BEARDS EVER LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO LARN IN OUR DAY-
AIN'T IT A JOKE? AS IF US OLD FELLERS WAS DUMB OR SOMETHIN'


YEAH- US AS HAS HAD TO BE SMART TO LAST- WHY, UTAH, WE OLD-TIMERS HAS FERGOT MORE'N TH' RISIN' GENERATION'LL EVER KNOW-
YOU SAID IT, AL- WAL- IT'S SHORE BEEN NICE T'SEE YUH- I'M WISHIN' YUH A RIGHT PLEASANT RIDE HOME- PUT 'ER THAR----

E-E-E-E-E-Y!-
WH-H-HOOOEE!

JIT-A-JIT-A-JIT-A-
HUP-A-HUP-A-HUP-A-
20-38

WOW! MEBBE I GAVE 'EM A MITE TOO MUCH!
CLICK
LEFFINGWELL

HM-M---YUH KNOW, UTAH, MAYBE KIDS NOW-A-DAYS GIT OFF TO A FASTER START THAN US OLD FOGEYS DID-
TAIN'T THAT SO MUCH, AS I SEE IT- WHAT I FIGGER IS, IT 'PEARS AS HOW WE MEBBE STUDIED TH' WRONG SU'JECTS-